



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

# **West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation**

Appendix to consultation analysis report

Consultation 21 December 2022 – 31 January 2023

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# **Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire with full results**

## **Overview**

Every year the Council plans for the money it will have available and how it should spend it in line with the priority objectives set out in its Corporate Plan. At a meeting held on 20 December, West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet approved for consultation its draft budget for 2023-24 and we are now seeking views on these proposals.

The Council successfully delivered a balanced budget for its first year of operation within 2021/22 and set a balanced budget for the current year (2022/23).

However, like all councils up and down the country, there have been a number of unprecedented financial issues throughout this financial year which have significantly increased the cost-of-service delivery.

The main financial issues include:

- Inflationary and cost of living pressures impacting directly on the cost of providing services.
- Ongoing financial impact of COVID allied with the withdrawal of significant COVID funds previously received.
- Continued additional demand led and inflationary pressures within the Children's Trust.
- Continued additional demand led pressures within the Adult Social Care.
- Additional operator costs in providing school transport for children.
- Cost of living pay award expected to be significantly greater than the amount included at the time of setting the budget based on the latest national pay award offer made by the employers' organisation.

With the financial, and demand challenges most evident around supporting children in care, vulnerable adults, and those needing temporary housing and transport to school, the Council has acted quickly and early to identify a range of proposed measures to tackle the financial challenges in the short to medium term.

Our draft budget for 2023/24, continues this work and includes proposals for the coming financial year which will ensure we continue to meet our statutory duties, protecting, as far as possible, the vital services we deliver to our communities in the most efficient and effective way possible.

A broad overview of the main proposals:

- To increase the average Council Tax by 4.99 per cent, comprising of 2.99 per cent core tax and a further 2 per cent adult social care precept, which is the maximum amount permitted by Government. The increase is less than half the current rate of inflation.
- To protect funding to meet demands on critical services by increasing fees and charges for discretionary services, where people have a choice whether they use the service, such as garden waste collection and car parking. This will also align our fees with national averages and fairly reflect operating costs.

- A proposed Capital Programme including improvements to local roads, mending potholes, and schemes to improve residents' wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and support communities.
- To review services to make them more efficient and save taxpayers money including:
  - A review of the current Home to School Transport Policy, processes, and systems. A public consultation on this proposal will take place early next year
  - Introducing a three-weekly waste collection in the South Northants and parts of Northampton area to bring in line with the waste collections for Daventry
- To restructure service areas in the Council, introducing new or reviewing and improving ways of working to generate savings without impacting the delivery of services and introducing tighter controls on spending across the authority.

Recognising the major pressures and demand for adult and children's services, the draft budget proposes to invest significant extra funding into these areas to improve preventative and cost-effective care for West Northamptonshire's most vulnerable residents and to respond to the significant increase in the demand for these critical services.

The Council will also continue to deliver on plans to drive economic growth in West Northants with further progress expected on multi-million-pound plans to revitalise the centre of Northampton through the Government's Future High Streets and Towns Funds, starting in the new year with the Market Square transformation.

The Council has also published a draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2023/24. The HRA is a ring-fenced account which records the cost of managing the Council's housing stock. These costs are funded by tenants' rents, and tenants/leaseholders' service charges. The Council is proposing to increase rents by 7%, an average increase of £6.79 per week, and to also increase service charges and garage rents by 10%. This proposed increase in rent is critical in funding the maintenance and delivery of 'fit for purpose' housing. We recognise that this is a very financially challenging time for people, and have therefore set aside a hardship fund to provide support to tenants who may be facing additional financial difficulties as a result of the increase.

Your feedback on these proposals within this budget consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help councillors make a final decision on the budget at the West Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 22 February 2023. This meeting is held in public.

Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by email [democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk) or by post or in person at One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED by 6pm on 21 February 2023. Up to three members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

### **Related documents**

Please read the related documents for a better understanding of the budget proposals before you comment on them.

- Cabinet Meeting [Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan report](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A – Budget Summary](#)

- [Appendix B1 to B5 – List of proposals](#)
- [Appendix C – Draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges](#)
- [Appendix D – Dedicated Schools Grant Budget](#)
- [Appendix E – Draft General Fund Capital Programme 2023-27](#)
- [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2023-24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#) report, and its appendices:
  - [Appendix 1 – Draft HRA Revenue Budget and MTFP Summary](#)
  - [Appendix 2 – HRA Budget Proposals](#)
  - [Appendix 3 - Draft HRA Capital Programme](#)
  - [Appendix 4 – Draft Northampton Partnership Homes \(NPH\) Management Fee](#)
  - [Appendix 5 – Draft Schedule of Rents and Service Charges](#)

All the above documents are available on our website: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24>

### **Have your say**

The following sections provide further details of the budget proposals that residents and service users may have the strongest views on, however, you can comment on anything within the draft Budget in the comment boxes. Please tell us your views by completing this questionnaire. You do not have to answer all the questions or give us your feedback on every section.

Your feedback will be part of a report with other people’s feedback, so you will not be personally identified.

This is the paper version of this questionnaire. If you prefer you can complete this questionnaire online at <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24>

You can also access this questionnaire online free of charge at any West Northamptonshire Council library. Please visit <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries> or telephone 0300 126 7000 to check opening times.

Alternatively, you can email or send your comments in by post using the contact details below, or by handing this questionnaire in to one of West Northamptonshire Council’s libraries.

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format (including easy read or large print) you can contact us by email, post, or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Email address: [haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

Postal address: Budget Consultation Response  
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The Guildhall  
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Northampton  
NN1 1DE

For information about how consultation and engagement responses are managed, please see the consultation and engagement privacy notice available at:  
<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/service-privacy-notices/consultation-and-engagement-privacy-notice>

The deadline for completing this questionnaire is midnight on 31 January 2023.

Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.

## About you

### 1. Are you:

There were 1405 responses to this question. Respondents were able to select more than one option where applicable.

Respondent type	Count	Per cent (%)
A local resident	1042	88.7
A service user	113	9.6
A West Northamptonshire Council employee	95	8.1
A West Northamptonshire Council councillor	23	2.0
A town or parish council representative	9	0.8
A town or parish councillor	44	3.7
A voluntary or community organisation representative	31	2.6
A local business community representative	23	2.0
A health partner organisation representative	2	0.2
A user group representative	5	0.4
Other	18	1.5

Other (where stated):

- Member of [name] Residents Association
- Local Business and Employer
- Parish Council
- [Job role], Northampton [business organisation]
- Live in Northampton and run 5 businesses in Northampton
- Chairman of a Parish Meeting
- NHS employee
- Old Age Pensioner in receipt of married women's state benefit only
- Business owner
- business owner
- Former resident, regular visitor for family
- A business owner
- Group representing older people

## Proposed increase to Council Tax

The council is proposing to increase the average amount of council tax by 4.99 per cent (2.99 per cent plus 2 per cent for adult social care), in line with the limit set by Government, which allows for this increase without triggering a referendum.

The proposed increase is less than half the current rate of inflation.

The proposed Council Tax increase will result in an additional income of around £11.5m per year which will be used to protect existing services. Without the increase the level of services required to be cut to deliver a balanced budget would be greater than is currently the case in the draft budget proposals.

- Example: Breakdown of cost for a Band D property

As an example, an average Band D level of Council Tax for West Northamptonshire Council of £1,693.73 in 2023/24 is equivalent to £32.57 per week. The average increase on a Band D property across the area is £80.50 or £1.55p per week. This Band D figure does not include the Council Tax for individual town and parish councils or the Council Tax set for fire and police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

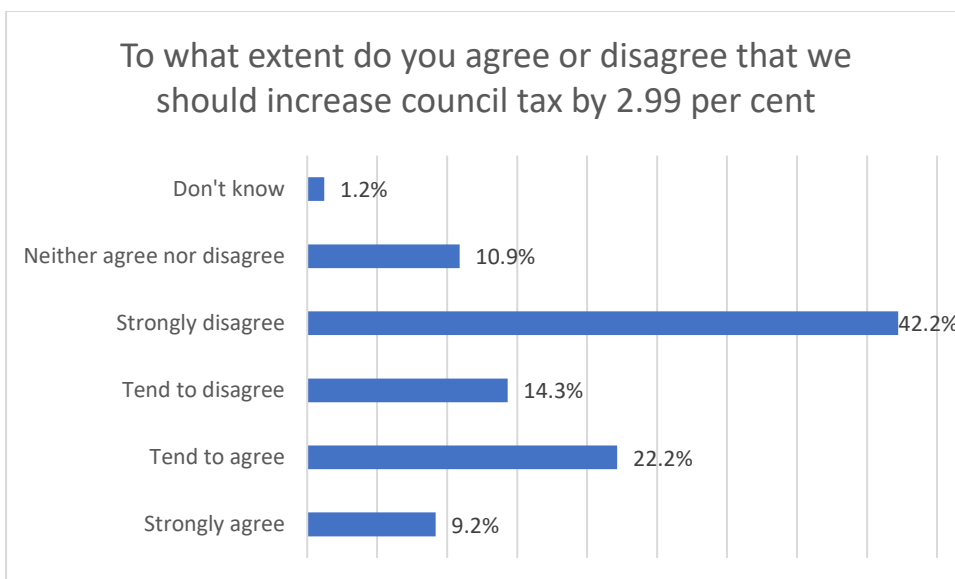
### **2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by 2.99 per cent to address the additional cost of our statutory service provision?**

- Example: What would a 2.99 per cent increase mean for a Band D property?

As an example, a 2.99 per cent general increase would result in an increase of £48.24 per year (93p per week) for 2023/24 for the average Band D Council Taxpayer.

There were 818 responses to this question.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Per cent (%)</b>
Strongly agree	75	9.2%
Tend to agree	181	22.2%
Tend to disagree	117	14.3%
Strongly disagree	346	42.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	89	10.9%
Don't know	10	1.2%



**3. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:**

There were 417 responses to this question.

Strongly agree / tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because we are having to deal with the huge mistake made by the previous County Council of freezing council tax year on year when it should have been rising to meet the demands of the population. Even this maximum rise does not cover the needs and we are now reaping the consequences of that mistake and will continue to for years to come.</li> <li>• I would recommend larger increases where possible</li> <li>• Costs are rising and the council tax pays for essential services. Although it is another burden with inflation at 10% that is little choice.</li> <li>• You have little choice, in reality. Central Govt places responsibilities on you with little consideration of the effects. None of us, council or residents, likes it and would wish it otherwise, but we are where we are.</li> <li>• We need to fund services in times of inflation</li> <li>• council services are already constrained and not increasing by the maximum allowed would only lead to further deterioration.</li> <li>• we need services and they cost money</li> <li>• Given inflationary pressures, the proposed increases are measured and sensible.</li> <li>• A year of inflation requires we keep a breast of the times</li> <li>• With the additional pressures that WNC faces, I believe that 2.99% is fair.</li> <li>• Where I think we should do better is to explain how we got to the balanced budget.</li> <li>• The fact that WNC had a £ 56million gap in August to be reduced to 0 means that choices were made or £56 millions (17% of budget) were more than inflation.</li> <li>• As the budget needs to be balanced and statutory services must be provided, for my part, in 2024/25, I would like to see a more robust approach starting in August with just a small gap to fill to reach balance</li> <li>• There are very few alternatives to increasing council tax that would not introduce increased risk into the council's ability to deliver on it's statutory</li> </ul>



Strongly agree / tend to agree

duties and that would not put adult social care and children's social care at risk.

- we need more services not less
- Might leave some cash to fix the dreadful state of the county roads
- I am expecting a 3% pay increase this year and so agree with a 2.99% increase. I accept inflation is higher but ask you to accept that I cannot afford to pay any more than an extra 3% for my Council Tax inclusive of all services currently received from WNC including my Green Bin.
- With a high inflation I understand why CT needs to increase
- Northants CC created an underfunding that Politically must be reversed.
- The Council needs all the resources available to it
- The council has kept in costs in check and with this increase well short of RPI, is great value for local residents. The council has done a brilliant job to keep the increase to this level.
- Services have to be paid for somehow, and whilst it may put people at a disadvantage monetary wise, the implications on not having services fully funded would be worse.
- due to the pressures WNC is facing, I believe that it is wise approach even if it always goes against my principles.
- What is important is that we make sure that the increase is used to deliver the transformation programme which should help WNC in the future.
- I see reduced services every year and increased council tax bills.
- The roads in the country are in a dangerous state. Road users are paying for repairs to their cars damaged due to the terrible conditions roads are left in.
- Parking is ridiculously expensive in the town of Northampton and ironic because there are very few if any reasons to visit the town. Residents have to travel out of town to shop because the centre of Northampton has been eroded away.
- Street lighting is not fit for purpose in most streets and roads. Making it unsafe for many (especially women) to walk/exercise in the early evenings.
- Bins need to be emptied at least every two weeks. For many households the bins are store close to their homes. The smell of general waste, from bins attracts flies and is unpleasant and unhygienic for members of the public and house holds.
- Need to increase to keep up with inflation
- It depends on what we as residents of Northamptonshire get back in exchange, we are suffering deplorable roads to the point they are now often either dangerous or causing considerable damage to our vehicles, plus it doesnt exactly encourage visitors, also some areas of Local Government are in urgent need of attention, our planning system is virtually broken impacting upon workflow in the local construction industry.
- Monies needed to try to maintain services
- It is very disappointing that central government has chosen to underfund local councils and it is necessary to make up the deficit in this way.
- Charges have got to match inflation
- Your comment about the current rate of inflation ignores the latest Bank of England forecasts which indicate an expected rate of between 5 and 7% by the middle of 2023. You should be more honest about inflation expectations over the budget period.
- there is probably no option, but please focus on providing services that really matter to ALL local people

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- I accept that inflation has meant that the cost of providing services has increased, so council tax will need to increase to ensure adequate funding for the continued provision of council services.
- I reluctantly agree with the proposal as given central government continues to refuse to adequately fund local authorities as we have no choice
- I would like to see more money spent on local services, however, I feel there is a lot of waste and would like to see this eradicated.
- The council needs to increase its funding given the low funding now coming from central government, as local services are key to residents.
- With inflation we need to pay more
- considering the current inflation rate. this seems reasonable
- I understand the need to increase council but every penny is needed in households at present due to high costs in everything such as heating and food
- it's good that the rise is less than inflation.
- Would prefer for council tax to not increase but understand it needs to.
- I believe that public services are a good thing - and that they should be properly funded.
- Extra funding is needed to pay for extra services
- Whilst as a band G owner the impact is all the larger I accept that inflationary pressures are making everything very challenging.
- Everything is increasing in cost, it is understandable and not surprising that this is proposed. It would be helpful if the complete cost of ctax was made apparent for this consultation i.e., include detail from the other services paid for through council tax namely police, parish, fire and rescue etc, although appreciate that they are separate from the Council.
- Something has to be increased, 2.99% on CT is going to have to be acceptable.
- It fits in with current inflation figures, so would seem to be acceptable on the basis that services are not also cut.
- We need good public services
- This increase is probably inadequate to maintain services at an acceptable level. I would prefer a more realistic increase given the level of inflation and other pressures.
- While the governments stance is that people shouldn't have pay rises inline with inflation i am sorry to say that any taxation increases should also follow the same rules
- I would have preferred to see an increase closer to the rate of inflation e.g 7.5% to ensure ongoing quality of services. However I appreciate the difficulties involved in exceeding the government limit.
- To ensure continuity of services then the increase is appropriate.
- Cutting services more would not be the best outcome for the area; personally i feel it would undermine the value of what services we currently have. Its surprising that its only 2.99% given inflation. I do feel that communication of price rises for councils could learn from private industry - with respect to approach. Give people plenty of warning, explain clearly and concisely where the increase is coming from, e.g. staff wages x%, fuel for rubbish/recycling collects x%, service A x%, service B x%, and remind people what great value these services still represent, what continue to get for a small increase.
- Please see my answer to the next question. Also I would hope that West Northamptonshire Council will also spend a good proportion of the increase on

Strongly agree / tend to agree

improving the conditions of the roads. The road system in this country now resembles a third world country.

- The most vulnerable in our community are struggling to get services they need due to budget restrictions and lack of funding. The only way to change this is to fund those services more. As a whole community, we are all impacted either directly or due to where we live, and the people around us, by the most vulnerable not being supported well enough. Your mum might need care at home. your neighbour might be struggling with their mental health and not looking after their property well and self neglecting. Any one of us needs social care at any point. It is a reflection on us how we look after those who are most vulnerable. So if paying for that is needed, then I'm glad to.
- I want to maintain 2 weekly bin collection
- To keep up with inflation
- Keeping the total increase below 5% makes sense. However, when you add in the areas that are excluded - the Council Tax for individual town and parish councils or the Council Tax set for fire and police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner - then it comes in well over 5% which is disappointing! When you then look at and factor in other rising costs to increase income and protect services, for example parking costs rising particularly at our local parks (a charge on physical activity and improving mental health in these austere and financially challenging times), then the disappointment further increases!
- To help with the vulnerable and those in care. We also need improvement in the roads. The local roads around Woodford Halse are a disgrace.
- Council tax pays for services essential to the community
- There's still a lack of confidence in the WNC as the same councillors who mis managed the old council are still in the majority. SNC was one of the best run councils in England and now run by the remains of the most incompetent council in England
- I understand that the cost of some services to the council has increased with inflation and essentially it is not viable to absorb these and retain CT rates as they currently are.
- It is important to maintain good quality statutory services which support the local residents, businesses, community & charity groups and visitors to West Northants.
- Property taxes are too low. Capital should be taxed more.
- I do not have an issue with paying more for the services but I do have an issue with the management of the funds that you receive. West Northants council is not a well run or well managed council. I have little faith I am afraid to say that the funds you receive will be well spent
- The current economic climate means that the Council has to maximise its income to the best it can.
- With the cost of living and everything else going up in price is this really the correct time to be increasing council tax when people are already struggling. Completely the wrong decision to implement this.
- no other option
- Clearly the Council need to pay for any upcoming or pending pay awards, although staff cost must be given a thorough review with some of the higher pay grades replaced.
- Expecting an increase as the unitary now has to cover the gaps in the old Northampton BC budget and the mess NCC left the county in.

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- The increasing cost in services has to come from somewhere, rather than reducing services, i would prefer a council tax increase, so the cost of this increase is shared amongst the population of West northants who have access/use these services.
- I feel strongly that the council needs more resources to carry on providing essential services. I'm aware that increasing Council Tax could cause hardship for some (although would hope/expect that help or exemptions would be available) but not sure where else the money could come from - not confident that central government will provide enough.
- I believe that our services are in direct need of improvement. Especially the town centre which is falling to pieces. Nothing but eateries and [...]
- Somehow we have to pay for local services
- Protection of services
- Any additional increase in costs isn't particularly welcome right now but the bigger picture, that these essential services will be reduced without this, means I support the increase
- Prices have increased for every person and business so this is probably a fair rise
- Some places are increasing by a bigger percentage so at this present time it seems reasonable.
- I feel an increase is inevitable given the cost inflation in the economy
- We need to keep up with inflation but we also need to make sure no more services are lost.
- It's not fair to put up council tax to plug a black hole.
- important to fund local services
- I feel everyone is struggling at the moment but some key / essential services need priority and raising council tax in one of the fairest and most representative methods for doing this
- In overall terms it is an acceptable increase as long as the money raised is used properly
- With increased costs for statutory services and chronic government underinvestment in local authorities it's inevitable that local residents will once again be asked to shoulder the burden.
- One later question in this survey is: 'Is your sex (called your gender identity) the same as the gender you were given when you were born?' This is nonsensical, sex and gender identity are not the same thing and no one changes sex, even someone with a Gender Recognition Certificate does not change sex. Legal sex change via a GRC is admin, your actual sex is observed at birth and does not change with cross sex hormones or plastic surgery. The different relevant protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 are 'Sex' and 'Gender Reassignment' not 'gender identity'. If you are collecting data on this stuff for monitoring you need to use the correct strands and correct terminology or you are at risk of data protection breaches. This is basic stuff, please refer yourselves to the EHRC and look at organisations like Sex Matters who campaign for clarity in this area. Let's please not incur cost for taxpayers by inventing protected characteristics and collecting dubious data.
- except that I do not believe that you are meeting your statutory provision requirements. Your contractors appear to be getting away with murder
- Costs are increasing so unfortunately it is a necessary evil
- Services need to continue and therefore we need to pay for them

Neither agree nor disagree

- The council should increase the precept to the amount they see fit, not to a nominal figure to avoid a referendum.
- I would expect that WNC always put up the Council Tax to the maximum it can as this has happened previously.
- Disingenuous talking about 4.99% when you haven't included parish council increase or police and fire brigade increases.
- As a voluntary organisation, we recognise the impact of factors detailed in the draft budget on rising costs to the council and to the taxpayer. However, we are seriously concerned about one specific 'solution' the council is proposing in the draft budget and wish to voice our objection, namely changing waste collections to three-weekly for South Northants and the Northampton area.
- Since inception in January 2021, our organisation, [name of organisation], has removed over 50,000 bags of litter and waste from the streets, parks, countryside and roads of our county, saving the council over £2.5 million. We are also pro-active at reporting fly-tipping to the council to support the council's duty in maintaining their land within acceptable cleanliness standards in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Much of the litter we collect is household and commercial waste thoughtlessly discarded with an attitude of abdicated responsibility and an assumption that someone else will deal with it. In the first eight days of 2023, our volunteers have cleared 510 bags of rubbish from the county - much of it from areas where there is currently weekly waste collection. The issue is not specific to any one part of the WNC area, however, Northampton in particular is in a shocking state and getting worse by the day. Our Facebook page has extensive photographic evidence posted by volunteers that supports our view that the county has an epidemic of litter, which is negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of residents, the reputation of the county and its councils and investment into the county by outside companies and organisations.
- Our concern is that reducing waste collection to three-weekly, will only add to the litter and rubbish on our streets, dumped in the countryside and abandoned wherever the perpetrators stand. We believe it will exacerbate the issue of fly-tipping in the county and create even more areas which are a health and safety risk to the local residents and visitors and which add to the growing reputation across the country that Northamptonshire is a dirty and decaying county.
- I do not know how else that money could be made or if other cuts can be made
- I need to understand what this is to be spent on? Many other ways to increase revenue. Sort illegal parking. Sort fly tipping. Sort excessive residential refuse weekly left out. Commercial waste outside shops..
- I see no actual evidence of improved services and efficiency, promised at part of the unitary process. Tory mismanaged district and county councils, now mismanaged unitaries unless evidenced otherwise. "if you do things the same way, you will get the same result".
- It seems unavoidable
- At the time when everything else has gone up and for many of our local residents there is question as to eat or heat and due to total mismanaged by this Conservative government, I do not think increasing the charges is not only fair but immoral.

Neither agree nor disagree

- having lived in SN and now moved to MK the services provided in SN are much better. this includes rubbish collections, policing, street lights etc. things that matter to me on a day to day level
- Never happy for an increase but sounds reasonable
- I query whether keeping the increase below the rate of inflation is the correct policy. Services are already at a minimum and should not be contracted further. It is understood that the level of increase is capped by central government but this is a very short-sighted policy.
- Everything is already pushed
- I understand the cost of services has gone up but equally many people are struggling
- I have no confidence in the ability of West Northants Council manage the services effectively. If you were demonstrating improvements my response would be different. I don't have confidence that the additional money will make a difference.
- Costs have gone up so an increase is inevitable.
- I understand that the percentage increase is necessary and agree that we need to fund services. However, real wage income has not increased so this feels like a larger weight to bear. If you pay more, then there needs to be an improvement in services, cutting waste (particularly recycling and green waste) collections seems to be a reduction in service. I also do not have tremendous faith in the council to be able to deliver the proposed improvements, roads/children's services/social care so wait to be convinced this extra funding will have the impact so desperately needed.
- Money has to be raised somehow. I do not believe it can be made by cutting costs to services and it is doubtful that the council would look at its own running costs such as staff expenses
- I'd like clear explanation on what the money will be spent on. Asking a yes/no without showing full facts will give disingenuous answers. Can I be sent the proposed budget please and explanation of outcome if not supported
- To improve services - there's currently no deaf support services in the county for adults and needs to be. This is causing disability discrimination.
- It is always 5% increase ish. Sadly our government do not ask the right people for money, what about taxing those who can afford to pay more so that there is not gross underfunding in public services
- I wonder if savings could be made before increases are imposed on already stretched households.
- All costs are going up so assume it has to be paid for somewhere. However the council's track record would make me suspicious of everything.
- As Pensioners living in our house for nearly 50 years we would find this difficult. We do not qualify for Pension credit or the new rate of pension having been born prior to 1950 so this will cause us and those in the same boat hardship.
- Without knowing more details it's very difficult to agree or disagree. As a local resident we are having to make significant changes due to inflation but none of these cuts reduce the service we give to our family or friends. These only impact ourselves. Cuts to the service in my view should be a last resort and a significant exploration of the existing budget to avoid unnecessary spend on council buildings, top executive pay and energy efficiencies should be a higher priority. As such a 4% rise is fair only if existing services are not affected,

Neither agree nor disagree

otherwise I am against it. Northamptonshire Council have had budgetary issues in the past and I am not confident that it is being managed effectively.

- An increase seems inevitable but many households are really struggling to pay their way as it is and there is no sign of inflation generally easing.
- Would want to see what the councillors increase is and what they've done to improve the town apart from student flats which is a disgrace.
- Insufficient info as to how this would be parcelled out and what extent the increase will lead to increased wastage of resources
- The council services need improvement, but I don't believe this council will deliver that - but I don't want things to get even worse.
- I disagree with tax rises but understand the need for them

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- 
- This council tax rise is very unjustified and its starting to end up the the dreaded poll tax. I would like to see the complete budget breakdown for this as we are getting very little for what we pay for.
- If you give us the services we pay for an increase may be justifiable - currently it is not
- Residents of Hood St. and surrounding streets are not getting a fair deal with council tax already. For example, where many in surrounding villages get black/ blue/ green wheely bins to cater for their household/ recycling and green waste; residents of the streets/ area above, get just a recycling box - which has to be taken through the house every week. On occasions where collection is delayed - the rubbish is subject to rummaging from the local street cats/ rats and foxes. Futhermore, because a number of people in the area do not have access to transport and simply do not have the additional funding to afford additional household rubbish collection; tip refuse i.e. broken furniture/ mattresses ect., get left on the side of the street, taking up pavement space and making the area in general look trashy.
- Don't make foreign investments and instead spend the money on the actual town you are taking the funds from
- The council needs to look within the number of staff on over 100k plus pay increased and yet residents are being asked for more and more. The council tax does not cover parish, and police costs
- As a new unitary authority you are still in the process if aligning council tax from previous authorities. Those that are in areas where council tax was previously significantly lower than Northants County Council rates have already suffered above inflationary rises which have been difficult to manage. Raising it the maximum amount and including the adjustment will not only be unfair but make it an over inflationary rise. More households will be unable to pay and will therefore stop paying entirely resulting in a lower recovery rate and increased enforcement costs, which will negatively affect the proposed increase figure.
- At the very least it should be an absolute cap at the government increase limit and not any additional increases for those already suffering significantly as a result of the formation of the unitary authority over which they had no knowledge or control when most people took up residence.
- Because the council can't manage it's money. Further increases will be wasted on useless loss making schemes.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Another increase to council tax but I am yet to see an increase or improvement in services or to Northampton
- I feel that the amount of the increase is too high in the current climate
- The services provided already fall below par, to then charge residents more for than this is unacceptable.
- I have no confidence in a council that has been bankrupt twice leading to having administrators in and now without any voting of new councillors in are stuck with the same people telling us how they are going to raise our taxes to try and run our lives.
- Whilst I appreciate the commentary around the increase being half the rate of inflation, the fact is that inflation, the cost of living and energy prices are an all-time high and this increase is unaffordable for residents.
- No one can afford anymore increases, it's not fair to pass on the financial short falls to individuals. We don't get any say on how money is spent by the council and I'm sure if we had a choice we might not agree with all decisions. Therefore, it is not the responsibility of the taxpayer to pick up any more financial burden. A council tax rise will push more families into harder times, and they will use services more, so it's a false economy.
- Despite current inflation Council have other ways of managing budget without increasing Council Tax contributions. Proper gap analysis and budget monitoring would go a long way as money is being wasted everywhere.
- By raising the Ctax this much you are being counter productive, forcing people further into hardship and then becoming reliant on our already stretch services.
- People are struggling immensely to put food on their tables and keep their heating on. At this time, the Council should be assisting people - not exacerbate their suffering.
- cost of living is squeezing everyone making more people need the council, if council tax is increased it will squeeze even more people who are already struggling but not entitled to CTR etc due to the 'allowance' amounts not increasing for years. vicious circle.
- With cost of living we cant afford this increase.
- With the already high cost of living increases and power bills how do you expect an ordinary pensioner to exist council tax goes up every year without any tangible benefits.
- And the example of using a band D rating is misleading
- the council cannot be trusted that is where the extra money will be spent
- Need to make a lot more saving by being more efficient.
- Poor financial management once again resolved by asking residents to fill up the pot.
- Are you actually joking? For the past few years you've increased it by the absolute maximum each year when people are already struggling to the max at the minute!! When are you going to stop robbing us left right and centre? Not that you'll pay any attention to this 'consultation' anyway, you never do, it's just a box ticking exercise!
- I learn of SIGNIFICANT reserves of WND. These should be used BEFORE increasing Council Tax!
- WNC is an inefficient organisation that wastes tax payers money. Many departments, such as enforcement, do nothing and so should be scrapped creating a saving.



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Senior employees are just time-serving procrastinators and should be removed proving a significant saving in their salaries.
- there is a clear line that you are increasing taxation and in fact reducing the services provided at the same time. As rates stabilise and reduce as will costs will taxation be reduced in line
- Council tax goes up every year, yet services get worse. We were assured of £80 Million savings had been identified by going to unitary authorities. Why are these saving not being made?
- As a pensioner I suggest more efficiencies need to be made across the board. Finances are already stretched to almost breaking point.
- If we saw a decent level of service from previous increase then it would be fine but this council, just as the last, seems to have the inability to manage budgets and spend correctly. I strongly oppose the increase.
- As chronically sick pensioners just outside the level to claim pension credit we just can't afford to heat our homes and even working people are struggling to feed their families let alone afford heating which will only get worse as the price hikes in January and April bite !!!
- You have yet to offer value for money cut services and charged for services which were free .
- With the cost of oil heating, three times what it used to be, and now paying for green bin removal too, as well as the cost of living inflations, hiking up the council tax will push many below the poverty line, which would mean the council would have to support those, which would mean even less money coming in. Has the tipping balance been worked out?
- You keep reducing services for the bulk of your customers, why should we keep accepting these increasing in charges ?
- People can't afford this increase
- Your service level is degrading year on year. Roads in South Northampton are akin to driving through Beirut. Cost to empty "Green" proposed to be increased by a ridiculous amount. Maybe "bin" off the diversity managers and training and put local people's money to better use!
- It's too much of an increase. I do not have an increase of my household income to accommodate this increase, therefore I will increase my personal debt, as will many others
- Because the extra money will just be wasted on more speed cameras and other crap not needed
- I live in DEANSHANGER we have one of the highest rates in Northamptonshire yet our services are virtually non existent, the road's especially Hayes Road is in a disgusting state and has been for the last decade. The road we were told would be resurfaced after Wreschner Close was finished but this didn't happen. We don't seem to have a proper reliable bus service yet the town have plenty of buses and pay less rates. Disgusting how our village is ignored.
- Disgraceful- we get so little hit our council tax. No busses, appealing roads and incompetent councillors paid far too much
- We pay far too much already
- The cost of living is a major difficulty for residents. The council cannot continue to add more cost to Council tax bills every year. The failed NCC saw the very efficient SNC merged with others to become WNC owing to failed policies, poor financial decisions including One Angel that delivers none of its business case savings. The council [WNC] has to work harder on performance, management and delivery of services. Residents already get a sub-standard

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

from a sub-standard council. You deserve no additional monies from over taxed and poorly supported residents.

- I live with my husband, have worked hard for a nice house and pay almost £300 per month council tax, it is more than friends in more expensive and desirable areas.
- The rising costs to households is already unsustainable.
- The example also stated that Band D is £1693 annually, yet mine is over £2,000 a year.
- Wages not increasing reflective to other inflation increases
- I pay more than enough already at £250 per month. I won't get any more services or a better quality of existing service by paying more.
- As it is with the council tax we pay we get no Street sweeping we get no litter pickers and the fly-tipping here takes forever to clear
- Many people will not be able to pay an increase due to cost of living crisis
- Its already difficult to cope with all the other expensive is it really fair for you to be hike our council tax petrol food gas electricity wht more do you want from us leave us alone
- Review what you are asking us to pay. Why are we paying for a PCC that we did not ask for. Removing that would save money. Maybe people should take pay cuts and then they would know how it feels. It's about time people got in the real world
- Council tax is already extortionate. A large increase in this time of increasing cost of living pressures, the council should be trying to help local residents, not adding to the financial pressure on them.
- If I thought that you would increase the level of service I would agree, but the increases are usually accompanied by even worse services, like in the waste collection, which is now less frequent than it used to be despite all the increases. Moreover families are already been squeezed as they are so I don't think it would be reasonable.
- The rates go up but the service goes down. You increase the rates by 4.99% yet you are going to 3 week collection so you had better provide bigger bins. Some of the roads in DEANSHANGER are in a disgusting state due to deep potholes esp from the bottom of GLEBE ROAD into HAYES ROAD, it is getting worse daily but the you don't give a damn about it. It is disgusting to increase the rates esp as we DO NOT have a proper bus service in DEANSHANGER any more, I have gone back to using my car as the bus service is virtually non existent.
- Cost of living crisis, energy costs etc. Put your efforts into lobbying Government to restore their funding to local government and stop doing their dirty work by increasing charges we can't afford.
- I think that in the current cost of living crisis that by increasing council tax, then you will more than likely drive more people to use your services than are currently. The council needs to take another look at the budget and review where additional funds can be sought from - I have listed several ideas later in this consultation review.
- Year in year out , same tick box exercise, this council does not listen, and just wants easy way out, hold the political status , but never concerned about the local residents , specially pensioners who do not have the luxury of free benefits like your loved migrants , quick on mark to increase taxes , and WHEN it all adds up , just cannot afford when our fixed income just goes up by 25pence a week.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- It is scandalous, that you propose to increase council tax whilst reducing services. You should leave council tax at it's already extortionate levels.
- The rise on top of my mortgage rise will leave me over £200 short a month. People cannot afford such rises.
- The individual resident cannot be constantly charged for the lack of investment by central government, or the previous mismanagement of the budget by the local authority in previous years. We live in a rural community where the services delivered by the Council are disproportionately realised and yet pick up the same issues and costs as those towns and central communities.
- As mentioned in your survey, these are financially intensely challenging times! Every penny counts and yet again, it's the middle earners who have to pay for EVERYTHING! NO, NO and NO. Perhaps you should start scrapping taxi services for children who don't live next door to a school bus stop. It is THE PARENTS' responsibility to see these children to school or, alternatively, to the nearest bus stop.
- People just have not got the money what part of this statement do you not understand
- I cant afford it, inflation may ahve gone up, but our wages have not, and you putting up council tax is only going to fuel inflation more, which is eaxactly the opposite of what we need
- Because people are struggling as it is with out this hike in charges but it won't matter anyway because your just do it .
- If I had more to give I would. However with prices going up and no pay rises I like many are at breaking point.
- No value add
- We're always paying extortionate taxes left right and centre and why is the government not paying for it, why are we always paying to fund the increase in services. Get rid of the guys at the top who don't help and use that extra money for it instead of squeezing it out of us working all the time!
- Because we simply cannot afford it. Everything has gone up but our wages. It's simply not doable. We are getting less for our money. You want to charge extra on garden waste collection already. We already have to make regular tip runs for our waste and pay for services that should be included in our council tax. This is wrong.
- Current inflation is extraordinary driven by the Ukraine and Covid. I do not believe it will stay this high unless we institutionalise it with price increases. The focus should be on cost reduction and minimising capital spend. We may have to suffer a drop in service levels as the price we pay for getting back to normal.
- The Parish Council I represent is not increasing prices this year
- We cant afford to increase council tax we already pay at a high price we cant afford to even put food in our fridge the cost of living is affecting mental health high suicide rate we cant cope
- You say it will improve services but it never does. Bins only get collected every 3 weeks. There are more potholes than road surface. To name just a few.
- The cost of living is biting us enough, and we cannot deal with additional tax. The government should top up the difference.
- Because all you do is raise taxes and reduce services. Less lighting, less frequent waste collections, less road repairs ans you want to take more. Its a disgrace.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- We get little services for the council tax we pay at present. Lots of waste of money I.e small road repair resulted in 3 vans 5 workmen 3 watching 2 work. Typical waste of money. Get efficient then increases wouldnt be needed.
- Everyone is struggling. The poor are getting poorer. This is burden on top of burden.
- Not delivering the services for the residents currently, so don't increase the charges and further reduce what you provide
- People who are already struggling and scraping their last pennies together, unable to pay to heat their homes or feed their families will be the worst hit by this increase. The threat of prosecution from not paying council tax will affect peoples mental health putting further strain on the NHS.
- Yet again ex NCC still cannot balance its books. Unitary has changed nothing
- Because lots of families haven't had an increase in income to reflect that increase. How can they pay this when heating and electricity costs are already rising through the roof? Also, the OPFCC are proposing significant increases, where will householders' find this money?
- Will there be a year when the local authority does not increase Council tax to the maximum. This has been the pattern for as long as we might have records- and moving to 2 unitaries was done in large part to realise long term savings. When will local businesses and residents benefit from those.
- This latest increase will only add pressure to already broken finances of local residents
- Our rates are increasing the service provided is decreasing, why not try to recover bad debts rather than stretching us when we are already struggling to pay increased costs
- In my opinion, the council is not effectively managing its budget and mismanagement should not be 'solved' by expecting residents to pay more for the poor and decreasing services.
- I am not confident that the Council is spending the current budget wisely/correctly.
- I cannot afford to pay more whilst it appears that the essential services remain unaffected.
- I also do not trust the Council that this money would not be going on inflated wages for the 'top dogs' whilst the rest of the staff struggle.
- You've mentioned the cost of living crisis so are aware that we can't afford the increase. You don't spend our money wisely anyway
- I would not agree to any increase for any reason at this time until the economic situation has been eased or solved.
- The cost of living is going up for everyone and people are finding it hard enough to pay for everything as it is, this rise along with all other rises that will come in the financial will all add up meaning the average working family will find it hard to afford.
- As most of staff are working from home sell excess property or rent it out
- Where I live, the only service I receive is a bin pull out/put back and I'm now paying for the green bin! I have no gritting, potholes, street lighting. Why should I be made to pay for these services if I don't receive any.
- We are already paying too much for the service provided
- Cost of living making it harder on all households
- There was a rise last year 2022/23 of 4.99% and residents are already struggling to pay their Council Tax. I appreciate that there is need to generate a larger income to cover the cost of existing services, however the residents of

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

West Northamptonshire are already angry with West Northants Council and this will further fuel their anger and distrust.

- See below.
- 4.99 is only just below the maximum allowed. Any increase at the moment can and will be detrimental to many households facing financial poverty over the coming months or year. An increase of 3% would still be affective but less of a burden on those already struggling.
- Should sell off some of their empty properties and disused land.
- We are all under financial pressures and being a middle earner puts further pressures on an already squeezed budget we get no help just money taken from us no help and no additional or better services
- The creation of West Northants Council took place with promises of cost savings, but there is no evidence of that
- I feel as many people I have spoken to do that the annual cost for D band property of £2000 plus is excessive on the basis of a continual year by year decrease in the value of services to the average house holder.
- No doubt you are aware of the appalling state of the roads which are now reaching dangerous levels repairs such as they are seem to last for a couple of weeks before they reappear and the money spent either in-house or with contractors is wasted.
- Judging by the number of new houses being built you annual income must be increasing
- Considerably but this never appears to benefit residents. I feel that we are expected to
- Pay ever more for the few services we receive.
- Some of the issues are around the way money is spent, rather than the amount of money available. While I agree to a review of CT, and potential increase, a total review of what you spend and how would be more pertinent. Why have you proposed 4.99% rather than look for more, which would then require referendum? You are merely adding a sticking plaster.
- If it has to be increased, I hope we will see improvements to the basic things like roads. We have already been charged extra for green bin collection and I see that the frequency of black bin collection is going to be reduced - to bring us down to the level of Daventry, as a result of our having been lumped in with Northampton council who lost a load of money on a football stadium. I don't want my money spent on football for a start! Let's have the basics.
- There have been too many above inflation increases over recent years. As a monopoly provider it's just too easy for you to impose these on local residents.
- everything is so expensive there has to come a point where nothing is viable anymore
- If there is to be an increase in council tax, I would like to see an increase in the services provided. Sadly in the past this has not been the case
- current figures are enough, nothing is maintained like it used to be- roads, road lighting etc
- Services are getting worse.
- Residents are in the midst of a cost of living crisis so the council tax increase should be lower particularly for low income residents.
- Local government, in general, would be able to make considerable savings by reviewing their current service/supplier/facilities contracts.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- So much public money is unnecessarily lost due to local councils, et al, signing poorly worded contracts (leaving terms far too open malicious interpretations) and likewise, generating poorly worded contracts themselves.
- A larger pool of vetted/approved suppliers would also prove beneficial by increasing competition as against the current policies of limiting purchases to a select few suppliers, thereby creating a truly captive market in which costings can be unreasonably inflated.
- I therefore feel that rather than increasing council tax rates, at a time when the public in general are desperately trying to make ends meet, it would be prudent to look at your organisation as a whole, examples of which are mentioned above. The average resident only accesses a very small percentage of the ""services"", and to demand an increase in council tax for services that we have already seen cut (brown bins being a prime, basic example. The loss of local council offices. The loss of our library (being replaced by a far smaller one) is a travesty. In other words, be more efficient, stop wasting money, and stop seeing your residents as cash cows!
- With current cost of living crisis, the increase should be absolute minimum if any at all
- Every year we see hike in council tax yet the service seem to get worse and more sloppy.
- We talk about care but where is the care for the locals who already feel stretched with the lack of services to help families with child care and. I'm happy for tax to be increased but only when we see a general improvement in services I feel the council just out put tax because the can then make bad decision on out sourcing work to 3rd parties and eventually cost more and then you never hold you hand up to the local people and say we were wrong instead you just hike tax up again and make us foot the bills for you incompetencies
- More money needs to come from central gov
- With the cost of living rises and limited pay rises families would appreciate this not increasing so much.
- I think we already pay too much for the service we receive.
- Everything is rising except people's salaries and people are already finding it difficult to make ends meet.
- Because this figure is not explicit enough - it won't be a 2.99% increase for Daventry residents as you're proposing additional increases on top. Our max with everything combined should be 4.99%, this way of breaking it down is misleading
- At this time when there is a cost of living crisis pushing up the council tax to the maximum allowable extent is only adding to the pressure on households struggling to keep a roof over their heads, feed their families and keep warm in the winter. Council tax won't be a priority and this increase is not manageable even to middle income families. On top of this the Council has misleading the public in Daventry and South Northamptonshire whose council tax increases have been well above the artificial publicised rates due to the unfair harmonisation process they adopted.
- Because it has a huge impact on those that are not high earners . It is the middle wage earners that will also see an impact due to higher mortgages and utility bills . Food also is increasing , they will be affected the hardest as they have no additional support .

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Cost of living is affecting everyone, including the middle income workers who seem to be forgotten about. This is just another increase that people can't afford.
- need to consider that rates is one of largest bills paid by many households - should aim to minimise increase
- With the extreme cost of living increasing in such areas like food, gas and electricity, there should not be any rise this year
- We already get very poor value for money. The roads are appalling, the service is terrible and improvements need to come from less waste of tax payers' money and greater efficiencies.
- I understand that the monies for services provided by the council must come from domewhere but as I have yet to turn on my heating this year due to the rise in cost of living, I feel that it is unfair to squeeze struggling families even more.
- Salaries are not increasing and cost of living has increased we don't have room to for extra money. Council need to have proper audit and cut down on their unnecessary vendors like for hiring, keeping contractors etc..
- If services are reduced including having to pay for green bins, I think we are paying enough. The green bin cost was included in our CT amount up till last year. But we didn't get a discount if we chose to do without our green bins.
- It was increased drastically last year with no improvement to any services so money is being wasted.
- I work for the NHS and my wages haven't increased by this amount so with everything else going up I have less money for food etc
- All bills are increasing and this places pressure on families who are already struggling. Even a small increase means that food cannot be put on the table.
- Council tax is already high and not value for money, especially for the forthcoming year where you are proposing to increase council tax but cut back further on services.
- It is becoming unaffordable
- To much wasted money to many sub contractors making vast profits
- We need to know the exact percentage that covers all parts of the tax
- Shiny new badge "West Northamptonshire Council", but in reality same old Northamptonshire County Council.....failing to manage the budget due to gross incompetence.
- As a retired Band D homeowner on a fixed government pension I believe it's time for these increases to be mitigated by my ability to pay. I'm sure there are several ways to achieve this without imposing any extra work or cost to the authority/Council.
- The council tax is high enough for the lack of services we receive
- You can't skin a dead cat which I to say you should not increase tax whilst the public has a reduced capacity to pay
- Some people like myself are worse off due to inflation with no opportunity to increase their income, & this will mean more hardship.
- I don't think we get value for money now!
- The increase should take into consideration the number of wage earning people who live at the property
- Residents are being squeezed financially from every angle currently. If there is any year to give respite it is 2023/24
- My wage has not increased by 4.99% I am barely getting by!!

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Have you considered that further increases to peoples outgoings may lead to pressures on the council to support those who are pushed further into poverty? How many more people will not be able to afford to heat their homes, or buy decent food & this lack of access may result in the council being required to provide additional services.
- You have stated that the increase protects existing services, but then the budget goes on to say it proposed to reduce refuse collection to 3 weekly - this proposal is bonkers! It's ok for me being in a single occupancy house, but my neighbours bins (both black and recycling) are jam packed full every week. They already have more waste than they can fit in their bins. We will have more fly tipping, more vermin issues unless of course you plan to provide larger bins to everyone.
- During a cost of living crisis there should be more done to maintain services within existing budgets
- Local residents are already facing challenges due to cost of living, this is just another example of how we the people are having to pay more.
- People have been heat hard were the money gono come ftom ..
- You do a very poor job with the money taken in taxation. You should be asking for less until as an organization you are providing good value for the money taken
- Every year I pay more and get less.
- Because as it is we dont get any thing worth while, only bin collection every three weeks .roads are in a state no police walking the beat .so basically all our council tax pays for is bin collection on three weekly cycle .
- Because I personally can't afford it and I don't feel the council is effectively spending the money it does get. I am not really benefiting from the council tax I already pay.
- Whilst I agree in principal the increase of 2.99% to protect statutory services I disagree that some services such as waste collection should be modified to thrice weekly collection as opposed to twice weekly in South Northants. Effectively I will be paying more for a lesser service .
- I will also be hit with an increase to parish council precept .
- If the council tax is increased ,that mean the government is increasing the financial problem of the masses.
- Once again an increase on struggling households this will not be the only increase overall.
- Reducing expenses and cutting the budget for grants for community groups and projects and focusing the budget available on maintaining and improving core services would be a better option than increasing council tax since many people are already struggling with cost of living.
- I feel the council is wasting our money on unnecessary projects. (Market Square for example).
- this council has already established to be a poor money manager. I am appalled that the services already paid for are not done effectively. You need refuse collection staff to come clean up after bin day because the bin men dont care if they fling rubbish. You have open drug dealing going on as police drive by.
- With the cost of living at the moment this should be put off for another year. There are people who cannot heat their homes or feed their families.



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Is this affordable for people now and in the near future? With many families struggling putting more financial pressure on them would push some pass breaking point.
- Why is such a new unitary authority finances already in such a bad state anyway? I thought the bringing together of councils was suppose to save money so surely you'd be in a better place than many other councils but your spending seems to be out of control already just like NCC.
- You're not only planning on putting costs up but you're cutting services too! Where has all the savings gone?
- Things are expensive enough as it is. There was a huge rise last year & no improvement in service.... Why should it increase so much again? We still won't see a difference
- You don't provide an acceptable level of statutory services as it is. So why should we pay more for ever less service?
- Cost of living crisis - in the council area there is already many warm spaces etc as people cannot afford the basics - this will put a further burden on people in West Northants when many are already stretched financially to the limits
- Due to the previous County Council mismanagement of funds we have been subject to the maximum increase year on year already.
- As a band G household, we already pay almost £3500 per year. You've already added a green waste "fine" and fly tipping is evidently on the rise. I see very little value from the huge charges you make.
- You can't even answer the phones in less than an hour and don't reply to emails for 3 months! Huge cost and no service.
- Nothing will change
- Inefficient management of tax revenues should not be masked by simply increasing tax. Increases in tax should be to improve services/provide new services not plug holes in flawed systems or processes
- It's difficult enough at the moment, inflation isn't going to be forever
- Would be happy to pay if services were fit for purpose, E.g road upkeep (potholes) and no reductions in services made, E.g fewer waste collections.
- We were promised better services and improved Council decision making under the Unitary Authority but [organnisaton] is known to be appalling, the 200 bus service is under threat and Daventry planning is atrocious whilst the roads do not have a maintenance plan.
- You are proving very little service at present and are now proposing charging more.
- Our council tax is already very expensive and with cost of living crisis everyone is struggling
- Some people like myself are worse off due to inflation with no opportunity to increase their income, & this will mean more hardship.
- Residents are not seeing any improvement on the services that our council tax is used for there is no evidence of an improved Police presence, the whole of Northamptonshire is filthy we desperately need a litter policy to regain pride in our county & the roads all over the town are in a terrible state.
- WNC have consistently charged more for less and wasted huge amounts of money on empty offices poor contracts.
- Families are struggling enough without having further tax increases thrust on them - it wouldn't be so bad if we, the residents of WN actually got value for money from the declining services offered by WNC.
- We're already paying extra to have green waste taken away

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I am not convinced the service would match the increase. Though I think the service is very good.
- Why the increase if there's a decrease in the general waste bin being collected every 3 weeks.
- You take more money, then cut or reduce our services. The town is awful, the countryside is being ruined.
- Paying too much already.
- You refer to the cost of living increases and being half of inflation etc but it is us the residents that are feeling the costs. We've had no pay rises and everything keeps getting more expensive. There is no improvement in service for these additional costs you are proposing. Our roads are already awful along with most things run by the council and are run down due to poor management.
- We have to pay enough for services in the county as it is. The increase in day to day living is unbearably high. There is also the access of emergency vehicles being hampered by the charging of parking in certain areas of Northampton town itself. I draw your attention to the race course car park. Surely implementing a usage charge for its use would encourage and increase street parking. This surely is impractical not only for the residents in the area but the general safety and welfare of all concerned.
- Please ask yourselves this please. What is more important safety or money. I for one am appalled at the attitude towards the residents and patrons of Northampton. What exactly do the local authority do for the welfare of residents without charging them.
- Cost of living crisis.
- Use reserves
- Living on my own (widowed) pensioner any increase is a burden
- Inflation through the roof prices going up, my pay rise was poor,
- Try reducing the amount of high earners in the council, If you put it up make green bin collection free again
- I live in a cold house that's deemed to be a band F. It's unaffordable
- Because I am a public sector worker and have not had any sort of pay increase but yes everything is going up from food to council tax and I can't afford anything else I don't have any money left. I don't have any luxury items and I just can't afford anything else or don't have any more money and you will find I will get into arrears because I don't have any money, if the council give me more than £1500 a year pay rise I maybe able to but as of today I do not have any money left. Do you want more money well you won't get it my council tax will be 3% in arrears each year unless the government put my wages up. Sorry please give me the number of your debt department
- The council visibly wastes huge amounts of resources and funds. Issues that should be solved before passing on that waste to local residents
- it's an absolute rip off as it is
- money is tight already
- The constant increases in local tax provision masks the urgent need to reset the context and approach to the split between regional and national funding, responsibility and expenditure. Just as with other substantive budgeted expenditures like the NHS and Defence efficiency and VFM get lost in the fog of rising costs and effective targeting is never seen. A simple example would be waste collection. The emphasis is always on balancing service frequency with cost rather than investment in reducing waste in the first place. We're told

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

that we have to continually pay more to maintain the same or lesser service with no visibility of investment to reduce the demand/volumes as an ideal alternative?

- Every year we are hit by endless hikes in council tax. I have lived in Daventry for six years and the CT has increased from £193 per month to £256 per month, a huge increase, and as I live in a band E house that apparently makes me rich. We are on a pension, certainly not rich and we do not use items such as schools, colleges etc yet we have to pay for them. One of the reasons cited for charging for garden waste was that it wasn't fair on those living in flats etc as they didn't have a garden. Fair enough, so why do I have to pay for schools, colleges etc and numerous other "services" I don't use.
- No improvement in services....bus routed cut lighting reduced no local police or station
- Not the right timings with cost of living crisis. Bills and food are far too expensive at the moment.
- You are reducing services like 3 weekly bin collection. We use our recycling bin and food waste and they are full by every collection date. Rubbish in black bins around the area will be stinking by 3 weeks and overflowing
- You need to invest in filling in potholes that are becoming death traps. The roads in the county are the worst they have ever been. Why during Covid instead of putting everyone on furlough couldn't outside work like this be done. Road signs are covered by overgrown trees.
- Instead of increasing monies from the public you should be cutting back the waste of monies WNC spend. It is total incompetence
- Can't afford it as it is its 50% of my mortgage payment at 300 pounds already
- Given the consistent above inflation increases in the last years, and the current cost of living crisis for all WNC tax payers an increase would be unaffordable for many, and would cause additional difficulties for tax-payers.
- Cannot afford it. I rent, am a single parent and already pay almost £100 per month for very little services. I have one rubbish bag a week, they do not collect garden refuse and my rent has also gone up. I have been trying to save to buy but impossible as everybody is putting up costs. I
- see that parking fees in county parks are also proposed. All this is doing is making everybody poorer as we cant force our employees to pay us more! Due to the already known facts that the people are struggling, I believe they should not increase costs. It cannot increase every year and then offer fewer services.
- The cost of living crisis is actively happening, customers just cannot afford this increase in the current climate
- Why should residents have an increase in their council tax, when the council don't even do their jobs properly, you reports repairs and nothing gets done about it, had repairs jobs in for 2 years on my property and still not been fixed, when you ring to raise it and check the appointment date you get attitude from the people working on the other end of the phone.
- Given the consistent above inflation increases in the last years, and the current cost of living crisis for all WNC tax payers an increase would be unaffordable for many, and would cause additional difficulties for tax-payers.
- It's not the tax payers / residents responsibility to pick up the costs so that WNC can fulfil its statutory duties.... spend the money you have more wisely!
- Cocouncil tax is ment to pay for service and them services don't get done
- Everything is going up people don't have spare money.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- The council has continuously cut services that should be covered by the payment of council tax and yet continue to increase the costs. In the current cost of living crisis you are making what is a hard situation for residents who are already struggling worst. The local council receives ample grants and top ups from Central government
- Due to the current cost of living, nobody can afford a larger increase. As we are supposed to be working with the public and community I don't think they will take too kindly to us wanting more money. We hear it all day on the phones and this is going to make it worse.
- At a time when energy bills are increasing everything should be done to avoid more pressure on hard working families.
- You should be looking to trigger a referendum as a rise of closer to 10% is clearly necessary.
- We're getting no more for our service! Your staff have all had a £1500 pay increase while residents are struggling to make ends meet! You've already taken away services such as garden waste, there are little facilities for families or young generations to use! There is little no no bus services the road are in a disgusting state and the residents are already struggling to make ends meet with the cost of living issues and bills rocketing!
- We cannot afford to live as it is, make efficiencies to your services rather than simply hiking the price up. Please.
- There is no way any household could afford this proposed rise. It is barbaric.
- Pay more for less. Doesn't make sense
- Council tax is already high enough
- Tax goes up yet services decline
- We are not seeing any improvement in services as result of raised council tax, and each household cannot continually bail out a local government that has misspent and mismanaged funds. As a county we have terrible services for mental health, children and families, public health and social care. Other areas in the country still have children's centres for example, libraries in all areas etc.
- It's yet another cost increase at a difficult time but the phrasing of the question is deliberately threatening. It's pay more or services will be cut even more. I disagree with this tone.
- I already struggle to pay my council tax and see no benefit of paying it. My street is dirty and there are no street cleaners. I cannot afford to pay more in a low wage.
- Some areas are paying a separate precept- others - like Northampton don't. Time there was a special expenses account for the costs associated with Northampton. Added to that we have to pay more for services like Leisure just so that the operators can pay themselves massive dividends.
- This isn't to pretext services it's to pay staff uplifts and the value you receive is diminishing.
- In all honesty, with the increase in council tax for the current year we found services were lacking in areas that had 'needed' the increase last time around, so what reassurance is there that this increase will be used in the correct manner? Ultimately we understand that there has to be an increase, we would just like to see it utilised as best as possible in the areas of services that have suffered the most from the current cost of living crisis, as well as the affect effects of covid. Reassurance on this to residents would be grateful so we can better understand where the increase in costs is being spent by the council.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- We are in a cost of living crisis where people are already struggling. Increasing the council tax by so much is only going to make things harder for people. I understand rates must go up but by so much at this time is insensitive to residents.
- It's always an imotive subject. I personally live in a Band E, but single occupancy, shortly to be an official Pensioner so little chance to earn extra!
- The starting point is already the result of mismanagement.
- The quality of service is not good enough to justify the increase additionally the increase will add another pressure to those suffering with the cost of living increases.
- Cost of living is hitting hard and this seems an extortionate increase at an already difficult time
- Poor or inadequate services all ready , roads in a very poor state of repair, street cleaning none exsitant , refuse collection very poor leave half the stuff on the ground. This is now , don't think we should be paying more , should be getting a refund
- Shows how out of touch the council is! The Cost of living crisis is crippling families and you want to add to their burden.
- Our council tax is already higher than anyone's I know, another hike in price amongst mortgage increases, food prices, electricity and gas, home insurance increases, petrol, car insurance, I genuinely don't think I can take another increase in yet another service and bill it will cripple my family and would likely have to sell our house.
- Cost of living is already so high. We are paying taxes on our incomes, on our food & our fuel. Council tax is the 2nd highest outgoing after rent. It just can't be afforded anymore.
- The Council already increased charges during the year by charging extra for collecting garden rubbish. This means the headline increase y/y is higher than stated
- We see very little for our existing payment now. I would disagree with any increase without seeing a complete breakdown of current costs. Show us current spend broken down by category.
- We are in a cost of living crisis with spiralling energy costs. It's unreasonable to then add additional pressure to households who haven't seen an increase in wages to have to pay more in council tax.
- Because we are all struggling to pay bills, and would this increase bring back local buses that have been removed!
- We pay enough council tax as it is. The funding should be taken out of the budget for senior employees salaries
- We're in the middle of a financial crisis, largely caused by the government. The existing commitments promised by WNC need to be met before adding more burden to residents for more services
- Nobody has any money so how can it be justified to ask for an increase when there is no money in budgets to do works and we have no guarantees that the money we pay into council tax will be allocated to the things that we are told when the budgets are literlly like robbing peter to pay paul. The state of the roads and the stripping back of provisions such as public transport in rural communities, why should I pay more???? What benefit do I see??
- At this time when all costs are high this is not manageable. It would also be a permanent increase with no clear improvements to local services

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- The council has miss managed funds and is being lazy in increasing the budget to this extent without exploring real efficiencies.
- I strongly disagree to an increase for what is proposed to be a lesser service. The idea of reducing bin collections to be inline with Daventry is disgusting, why should we have to accept a lesser (and quite frankly unhealthy option)because they do, how about you bring there's inline with us and improve things for them instead of dragging the rest of the county down to the lowest common denominator. South Northats council was good, we knew when this abhorant merger happened things would decline and it hasn't taken long!
- I will not be getting a payrise this year how can I afford any increase ?
- Household costs going up and household incomes are not
- Where are people expected to find the money? Serious question. We're already being strangled with interest rates and energy prices.
- You cannot keep on increasing and increasing Taxes, including Council Tax. The Council's aim should be trying to 'decrease' taxes. It is the 'working', home owning, striving middle class families who are always the hardest hit.
- As a pensioner I get very little support from WNC despite asking for some. e.g. failure to return phone calls, emails - I don't believe you give value for the money requested. Also believe that single person discount should be more than 25%.
- Because you should be getting funding from central government, not further taxing residents who already pay tax
- Councils, and WNC is no exception will always increase Council Tax up to the central government permitted limit. WHY? Get smarter and implement a 1.5% increase. Stop wasting money on fringe minority groups, stop trying to make everybody "equal". Start spending more on the majority of residents.
- The cost of living crisis already has us deciding whether to heat or eat and you are proposing to add to this massive burden, your timing is horrendous, you should be looking at ways to support the community not add to the burden.
- It is inappropriate for tax payers to be penalised for the ineptitude of our council and their poor financial decisions. Central government should step in
- Cost of living is crippling enough.
- It's already too high for failing services
- It's is too expensive as it is and what with the parking charges it's ridiculous.
- With energy prices rising and cost of living and other price increases is not sustainable with no increase in pay
- Would be happy to agree if we see real value for the increase but history shows us the cost goes up and the service provided goes down
- Public services have declined year on year in Northampton for decades. I'd like to see bold, dynamic decisions to plug funding gaps. Not just lazy rises in council tax and parking.
- Tax is too high already
- In theory i dont object 2.99% but overall its 4.99%, just because its broken down into 2 parts doesnt
- change the fact that i will have a 4.99% increase, which at the moment is difficult to justify
- People are being absolutely pushed to the limit at the moment and the fact we see very little for our money, pot holes, lack of police , paying extra for bin collection, rubbish everywhere .

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Has a pensioner I find council tax taking more and more of the amount I have to live on.
- You cannot increase the charge and reduce services provided. It is also disingenuous to state this level of increase separately to the other percentages that make up the whole amount on this questionnaire. It should be this plus adult social care precept.
- Council tax is already unaffordable, with little to show for the services. Please look at opportunities to streamline operations internally before increasing the cost of an already bad value service. The increase in cost will impact disposable income, which will no doubt have an impact on local businesses.
- Miss management of funding has resulted in ever increasing costs. Perhaps look at internal and external cost savings (i.e consultant fees, tender process) before simply increasing taxes
- Our council tax has quadrupled since first moving down here yet the service we get is next to nothing. You're says bins will be every three weeks, great already get loads of maggots in the summer what's 3 weeks worth going to be like. Why is this happening people are paying enough for depleted shoddy services. Charging for the green bin was an insult, when your paying nearly £3,000 in council tax and you expect us to pay for taking away green waste. Disgusting.
- I think we pay enough already. The council don't spend it on things that matter to residents. Only on tin pot schemes such as the market square. It's perfectly fit for purpose as it is.
- West Northants Council waste money and have ruined the town centre over the years.
- Every p the council tax increases we get fewer services
- Stop wasting money on wages and pensions and outsourcing
- I am Retired and everything is expensive at present and there is already the additional charge for emptying the brown bins. Plus the proposed parking increase.
- Cost of living and not really able to afford much. Single mother so added council tax doesn't mean reduced costs elsewhere
- I don't not feel now is the right time to increase with the cost of living going up wages but increasing but all bills going up
- It's going to leave a lot of people and families without basic things
- How can anyone afford any increase regardless of the fact that there is no funding for any services??? Its a total catch 22 but middle earners get no help financially and are being squeezed the most
- We cannot see how any increase over the last few years have benefitted the local services or area. The roads are shocking and the only good thing are the lovely bin men who are total stars, although despite the huge increase every year we still have to pay extra for a green bin!
- The rural parts are last to benefit
- While inflation has gone up, wages have not.
- Every other bill has increased and life is unaffordable
- This is far to high an increase to manage with energy increases, interest rates etc.
- We get nothing for the money already. You want to charge more for giving us less. Under freedom of information I request to see the salary details of the council staff! And a justification for 11.5 million increase
- cost of living an i have had no pay rise !

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- People are already paying too much and it seems like you [expletive] enjoy fleecing the elderly.
- The utility bills are hard enough to pay without the council tax going up by a big amount AND with a reduction in black bin collection, which will be absolutely disgusting, smelly and overflowing if 3 weekly collecting. There is a big Rat problem in [place name] that will get a whole lot worse but less frequent black bin collections!!!!
- I live in a band A and it is already over £100 per month. The newly built house next to me is at least 6 x the size of my property and will not be paying 6 x the amount. The valuation of my property which bases my tax has not increased. We have 1 x bin per 8 properties. How does this justify a 5% rise?
- You encourage us to recycle, yet are charging extra for garden waste collection. Why should we not just put perfectly recyclable materials in the black bin which is paid for by tax anyway?
- There is a cost of living crisis and as per usual, you are not helping us. Instead of making proper cuts to your own spend, you are increasing ours. Start helping your residents!
- I think the council already receives enough funds from the local residents. When we moved to our new build no banding had been set. We moved from [name] which had cheaper Council tax which I'm amazed by being so close to London!
- Services are already poor! Putting money back into peoples pockets will have more benefit! Also move the dates when we don't pay council tax to December and Jan. this releases additional money for Christmas spending! Again, benefitting the high street
- There is nothing in Town to tempt anyone there
- The rise needs to be considered in terms of how much Council tax has increased over the last few years - wages have not kept pace, service levels have not improved. Council tax rise should be zero
- Because people are already struggling with cost of living increases and this will cause further issues
- Why bother - you haven't been listening for 20 years and won't do now.
- There are no services for the town and more houses and infrastructure going into expansion only while the town centre has no vision for improvement.
- Work smarter, cut out some red tape, get your house in order
- There are a large amount of empty properties, both commercial and industrial which sit empty - what are you doing to rectify that issue? if you reduce the fees of renting the properties so they are relative to the income that business will make and review it on a yearly bases, surely you lose less than you are currently by just having them empty. but instead it makes more sense to rise our already tight budget of living costs to accommodate the failings of our council.
- It's just unaffordable to have any increased Council tax. Please go back to the worksheets and look carefully at the savings which are possible. Why are there two chief executive deputies with secretaries and pensions and cars and [name] says they get paid over 130,000 each and why isn't there an Leader with executive people [...] an experienced leader and a good [...] with hands on work does [...] really need to have a chief eX as well? That would save over £300,000 to start with . Also your managers are really good and want to do more things. Let them have more responsibilities and sort out the delays in getting work done,



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- People are already struggling to pay bills
- Individual households are stretched to breaking point. Too many bills are increasing. People are already choosing between heating and eating
- You have our money in a [name] bank, that could be used to offset the levy being proposed.
- Selling off assets, means testing of councillors, to see if they can help reduce the financial burden on the constituents.
- I've never understood how well off politicians, don't use their own money to support their own effort and progress along the political path, yet are reliant upon claiming expenses for the most trivial of things that they can well afford.
- You and your predecessors have clearly demonstrated an inability to manage a council financially.
- Because the council has a history of wasting our money on over priced vanity projects which results in incurring shortfalls in funding essential services. If the finances were run properly, I would have no objection to the increase. The figure of 2.99 % is contrived in order to avoid a referendum which they know they would lose.
- Facilities in the town do not warrant an increase currently.
- You can't cut services and ask for more money. Stop it. Everyone is skint enough already.
- No council services, roads are in a shocking state, no investment increased bin charges.
- Service provided is an absolute disgrace.
- As it doesn't include all the different break downs and when you add that on you looking at over £100 increase when people are struggling now they can't find that £100 from No where.
- Stop wasting the funds you get and i may support. Perhaps reinvest the brown envelopes from developers
- The service we received from the Council gets worse year on year, why pay extra for awful service. The litter and general appearance of the town is a disgrace. No-one follows the rules set by the Council i.e. cycling up Abington Street, drinking on the market square etc
- I'm in a band D property and pay £210 a month. I'm a carer on £10 an hour it's scandalous. Already we have had to start paying extra for our green bin. Cut down the wages of some of the higher paid staff instead.
- Me and my [partner] both work not on great wages but we do and we are already struggling plus ours went up 22% not so long back which was a massive jump.
- Our pavements are a mess apart from my bins being emptied I see no other services I never see police present in the massive village we live in.
- The level of service we currently have is so poor that it's unreasonable to pay more for it.
- The cost of living is at an all time high so to have to find extra money to pay council tax right now would not be good news. We are already paying over £200 per month. I think it would be better to reduce waste within the organisation.
- Because money seems to go in wrong incompetent hands that don't improve the town as it should
- The generally already high council taxes have in the past represented poor value for the taxpayers/ residents.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- The council needs to review its services - zero base budgeting rather than an annual increase - anyone can do that ! like the private sector. The amount of waste of public money I have witnessed is excruciating.unnecessary signage in parks, developments unneeded or wanted whilst the lack of focus on generating lively town centres is unbelievable. Have a look at Ely as an excellent example of a welcoming city for vehicles with free parking public toilets. All clean and working and a busy high street. There are other ways !

Don't know

- am not in band D but I don't think there should be an increase
- I don't think we get good value for our money
- I am not aware of all the aspects involved in calculating the council tax, but I believe and like to trust people doing the job would do it with full honesty and in the benefit of wider citizens.

Not answered

None

**4. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be avoided:**

There were 304 responses to this question.

Negative impacts and mitigations

- Adding to current issues in the cost of living crisis
- as above
- The impact on household budgets could be avoided but not imposing the increase.
- No one can afford anymore increases, it's not fair to pass on the financial short falls to individuals. We don't get any say on how money is spent by the council and I'm sure if we had a choice we might not agree with all decisions. Therefore, it is not the responsibility of the taxpayer to pick up any more financial burden. A council tax rise will push more families into harder times, and they will use services more, so it's a false economy.
- The impact will be felt by all, and people will use services more, so this will be a false economy. You need to have more awareness of the difficulties everyone is facing. I think an increase in council tax would be at odds with the cost-of-living crisis and doesn't make any sense.
- You ned t be more innovative
- Peoples budgets are stretched already and many will not be able to manage. Increasing contributions will not make difference if money will not be managed properly.
- Driving more residents into our already stretched services where they would normally not of needed to come to. This means the money being "raised" by upping the Ctax is actually being spent on those being pushed into our services because of WNC and no additional monies is raised.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- People are struggling immensely to put food on their tables and keep their heating on. At this time, the Council should be assisting people - not exacerbate their suffering. People need help.
- Raising this regressive tax in a time where there are many people under financial distress is suboptimal but as noted there is little choice. The Council need to ensure they are doing all they can to support those less able to pay and make sure they promote this to people who qualify for exemptions.
- reduce the basic living standard of us and our children as we cannot afford much as it is as we dont meet benefit criteria, yet those on benefits seem to have a quiet comfortable life. why do lazy people who wont work get free childcare when they are sat at home not working. i work and have almost nothing left after childcare costs!
- A lot of households have less income and are not entitled to pay increases in line with inflation. An increase of any sort in council tax could result in more enforcement action needed to collect monies owed.
- It's now like having a mortgage!
- I think any major increase would pose a threat of increased homelessness as people will not be able to keep up with mortgage repayments, increases in cost of living, fuel price increases and now a 4.99% increase on council tax that many do not see the benefit of.
- We would be deprived and have no money for electricity and gas bills
- affects mental health
- Improve the executive leadership. Ensure politicians focus on local issues, not party politics (locally and nationally).
- It is obvious that it would have negative impacts at this time which should be avoided by holding it back until the economic situation in the country as a whole improves.
- A 3% increase matches the increase in my wages, so I am ok with that.
- Could send some families into poverty. Perhaps lobby government for more funding for the big increases in ASC and children's services. Its unclear as to why there is such a funding gap, when social care is in a mess and carers aren't being paid appropriately etc.
- If the service provision will be reduced, the precept should be increase further to cover this.
- People, even those employed are struggling massively. Food banks are seeing record numbers. Agree Adult and Children's Social Services need funding, but how does it assist those that don't access these services - when taking a look at percentages of population sizes, their is a vast difference, it is reasonable.
- School transport? Focusing on this? But bus services are being cut left right and centre. Are we to assume that cutting many people off from accessing work, or ability to get around. This feels like someone is winning financially - and its NOT the public
- The impact of additional taxation on hard-pressed families must be considered.
- From my pension of £160 a week council tax Band E £52 a week approx Gas and electric £50 a week are you getting the reality there is no more money to subsidise the council.
- Cut waste within the council including spend on expenses and other items
- People are just struggling so much at the moment I think any increase will be terrible for some households. Any more money should be coming from central gov who can target their taxation to certain groups

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- The cost of living is already really high. People are already struggling. You're punishing the middle earners who get no help already.
- Daventry is growing fast, developers need to make vastly more contributions to local infrastructure.
- Listen to public option local WNC receive an allowance why do they NOT respond to e mails from residents?
- Maybe a training course or rate your councillors poll would ensure focus and ensure financial transparency?
- People are already struggling to afford their bills with energy prices and mortgages sky high. You will have more people in debt, more people losing their homes.
- Of course more than a 5% increase in total for Daventry residents would have a negative impacts, I don't know anyone who has had more than a 5% pay increase yet we are expected to cope with bills going up by more (also in the same month that energy bills go up again)
- It will, along with other increases, stifle peoples ability to spend, restricting any economic growth.
- This will have a negative impact, when other utilities / companies are trying to keep the costs to the customer down. Also to add an increase in Garden waste subscription in the second year of the scheme, and reducing the collection of the black bins to 3 weeks .
- A general overview of impact to most residents does not seem to have been considered.
- Local people are already struggling to pay their council bills, this will make matters worse, however with the current government I can't see any alternative.
- there will be an increase in council tax evasion as cost of living increases and household budgets 'squeezed'. Has this been taken into account in calculations of deficit?
- It will have a huge impact at this time of the cost of living crisis.
- We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis wages aren't in line with inflation unless you're a local councillor or MP who can afford the rise. You are just making working class people worse off to fund your own pay rise.
- I do think those on low incomes are much more likely to go into arrears, and that therefore the Council will need to increase funding on chasing debt, which will detract from the net gain in revenue on both counts. Could some scheme be introduced to protect those who are unable to pay?
- Use reserves and reduce management on costs
- People cannot afford to make ends meet now so how on earth can we be expected to pay anymore, its OK for high earners but for the rest of us on fixed incomes we are struggling to live now !!!
- The poorest can't pay.
- It will definitely have a negative impact on me personally. Just the huge cost of oil heating has me thinking I need to move to a house that is not oil heated. Keeping the council tax as it is, would avoid any potential negative impacts.
- We're struggling, don't make things worse
- Recover bad debts
- Low income residents will be proportionally more impacted. More should be done to reduce this impact.
- People are struggling with the cost of living

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- I understand the need to maintain services but living in a small village with poor roads, lack of transport it seems more and more is being taken and no obvious investment
- You need to be more transparent as despite asking for opinions you will just ignore the residents
- As a single working parent I earn too much for council tax support and am already struggling to manage. Any increase will be hard to bare.
- Perhaps you could keep this in mind when people are struggling to pay and work with people rather than sending to debt collectors to add fees on and add more stress and pressure to people!
- I won't be getting a 5% pay rise so I will be worse off. As suggested above maybe some genuine rationalisation to get rid of the daft woke/diversity roles and get the money back in to core services. Maybe stop the excessive expense claims while you are at it.
- Look at sensible alternative efficiencies. Reduce outsourcing of services to private profit making enterprises.
- The extra money will be wasted on police literature about gays
- Give DEANSHANGER a proper bus service and get the roads repaired.
- Struggling to pay bills as it is and this will make it worse.
- As above
- Don't have any faith in this council, they waste too much money on useless offices and pen pushes.
- People are already struggling, and forcing some into further financial hardship is dangerous.
- See above.
- Budget the money you take now a lot better I.e. no increase in councillors allowance freeze it as it is.
- Ring fence more money to get things done I.e. pot holes if not keeping up take it away from them and any that are not fit for purpose make them come back and repair at there cost not the council
- People can't afford this increase with the existing cost of living increase. Trim West Northants senior management wages and improve efficiency within front line staff delivery instead. Cut the waste. Cut the bureaucracy. Stop building on green land to increase the population. Services are already at breaking point.
- This proposal impact on the old,pensioner and disable groups in our society will be felt for many years to come.
- The cost of living is unsustainable for most families and this will add extra pressure.
- Also, the council is offering poor value at present.
- We've seen an increase in fly tipping and litter in our area over the past year. More and more garden waste is being dumped since the introduction of that charge too.
- There are other ways that revenue could be increased. Cut out some of the overly complicated processes that cost extra money, for example.
- If the money was actually used to repair the road surfaces in the area it would feel worth it but the state of some roads is appalling
- its difficult for us all at the moment but services have to be paid for
- I don't want to see any impact to the level of service because the increase is not as high as the inflation. This should be managed by efficiency improvements.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- It will adversely affect my household budget but I would not qualify for Council Tax Reduction.; workers always end up having to pay more and more and I do not have the option of doing overtime to increase my income.
- You should be cutting services not constantly increasing taxes.
- See above...
- People will struggle to find the extra money needed - increase by 1.99% instead?
- It's not enough to do what is required
- Any additional charges should be avoided, residents will not have the money to pay.
- It will definitely have a negative impact on council tax payers especially those struggling with cost of living increases. Setting out as much information as possible as to why the council tax has to be increased is advised.
- What a silly question - of course this will have a negative impact as people unable to access benefits won't be able to pay and will be stressed out worrying about not being able to pay this increase when they have food, mortgages or rent and utility bills to pay which are all massively more expensive due to the cost of living crisis.
- only negative against cost of living rises so no avoidance
- Cost of living.
- The impact will be on home owners who are struggling with the cost of living increases across the board.
- Whilst I recognise the citizens of WNC will feel this is unfair, you could counter this by reminding them how much money the Tory government of the last 12 years has taken out of local authority funding.
- Manage the books properly. We shouldn't have to pay for your incompetence.
- Tax the rich oli giant's make millions leave us alone alone
- it wouldn't
- Cost of living is already hitting hard and an increase in addition to the above comments doesn't add value
- Less disposable income for people .
- A flat rate increase unfairly disadvantages the lowest paid workers (usually on lower council tax band properties). Instead the increase should be scaled with council tax band. Lower band smaller rise.
- As above
- I do not feel there will be negative impacts.
- The council is currently failing to meet its own identified priorities - in particular Green and Clean and Thriving Villages and Town. Northampton is NOT CLEAN and is NOT THRIVING. Northampton has an appalling problem with litter, waste, and fly-tipping - a lack of enforcement is exacerbated by poor management of council contracts. The state of the town, which includes ALL areas of the town and not just the town centre, is depressing for residents, increases health and safety risks, and adds to the general social decay that the town is now known for across the Midlands. Enforcement is not effective as it is not consistent and not enough is being done to address the frequent and persistent offenders who blight our town. The council itself add to the problem with A-frames, sandbags and metal road signs left after works - presumably, the council has to purchase more to cover the equipment it fails to take away after a job. Recently reporting left equipment to the council, I was told to report in on the app as fly-tipping!!! There seems to be no attempt to address the dreadful state of the town, but the council is happy to continue to pass

## Negative impacts and mitigations

excess numbers of HMOs and high-volume residential builds to create even more rubbish on our streets.

- The council's plan to reduce to three-weekly waste collection will only see the problem get worse and the town decline even more. In my street, we have to use bin bags for our waste. I do not have the facility to store 3 weeks' worth of rubbish and have no desire to walk rubbish bags through my home to the front of the property after they have been sitting for that length of time. The council isn't dealing with people who put bin bags out early with a weekly service - what do they think the streets will look like if bags are not collected for 3 weeks each time!
- To avoid these issues, keep weekly rubbish collections, enforce the laws of fly-tipping, educate or fine those who do not seem to be able to follow the laws, stop adding to the problem as a council and use the council budget more effectively to employ people to do the jobs that matter rather than gimmicks and unnecessary trappings.
- When 3 week collecting comes in I suggest you provide bigger wheelie bins.
- Worrying about increasing costs for everyday items already damages my mental health and this is making it worse.
- As above & please see later answers for some suggestions. In addition, the council needs to look at its cost base, just like every other business including the one I work for, we are carrying out regular spending reviews and pushing our suppliers to provide better services or for less cost. The budget doesn't make any comments on whether you have or if you intend on doing this.
- Just cut down on overpaid staff, who hardly ever provides any service , plus we do not use any of this proposed council services. We should only be paying for what we use. Why not stop this wfh policy , where most staff are operating private businesses , doing second jobs, no wonder phones are never answered.
- It's already difficult making ends meet and the increase would add to an already difficult situation financially for most residents
- Course it is going to have a negative impact. Residents will have less money to contribute to a thriving local economy. It will create massive ill feeling towards the council and is nothing short of a terrible idea.
- The negative impact that its having is that people want to move away, but cannot afford to do that with the housing market, the fuel rises, cost of living rises, intrest rises and now a council tax rise!
- Of course it will be negative for most people, if you think about the monetary costs only. We are in the midst of a major crisis. You say you are "introducing tighter controls on spending across the authority" yet you are only in year 2. Why were these controls not in place from the outset? We are on a slippery slope. Someone in your Finance department should be accountable for that.
- There is more litter created now than ever before. It is estimated that littering in the UK has increased by 500% in recent years with more than two million pieces of litter dropped every day (How can the UK tackle its litter problem? [name], September 2020). The issue appears to be worse post-lockdown with Keep Britain Tidy referring to a "littering epidemic as lockdown ended". In her briefing paper to the UK Government in 2017, [name] states that "Litter is perhaps one of the most significant low-level environmental crimes affecting the UK. Levels of litter in England have hardly improved in over a decade and 81% of people have said they are angry and frustrated by the amount of litter in the country." If the problem is getting worse, we cannot understand how

## Negative impacts and mitigations

reducing the frequency of waste collection is going to help the council to get on top of the problem. The UK Government's Litter and Refuse: Code of Practice, initially published in 2013 and last updated in 2022, seeks to encourage duty bodies to maintain their land within acceptable cleanliness standards in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The emphasis is on the consistent and appropriate management of an area to keep it clean, not on how often it is cleaned. WNC has a massive job to do to get the parts of the county for which it is responsible to a cleanliness standard that will allow it to keep an area clean once it has cleaned up what's currently there. If our organisation did not exist to support the council, another 50,000 bags of litter would be blighting the county. Perhaps, once the council has achieved an acceptable standard of cleanliness, then it can consider reducing waste collections, but to do it now would be allowing the litter problem in the county free-reign to reach astronomical proportions.

- To avoid negative impact, we urge the council to keep weekly waste collection for South Northants and Northampton and not bring it inline with Daventry - as the littering issue there is just as bad and getting worse. We also urge the council to make cleaning up the county a priority; to use to full effect the powers it has to issue and collect Fixed Penalty Notices and fines so that money can be put back into the fight against litter. We urge the council to address its own contribution to littering and fly-tipping by collecting the equipment abandoned, particularly after highways works, which currently is scattered across the county. Finally, we urge the council to install more litter bins in the WNC area, and reinstate the ones which have been removed or are in such poor repair they dare not be used by the public so that there can be no excuse for littering.
- Increase in people struggling to pay
- Cost of living for huge parts of the population, lack of investment into local economy due to increased costs equals recession. Centralised funding for local authorities and public sector needs to be addressed through MPs and treasury. Add this to additional costs for policing and fire represents a massive hit on household finances.
- Hard on those on low incomes, can it not just be applied to band d and above?
- People are struggling already to keep paying their bills...energy, food, water, insurances, petrol..how much more can we take?! Start looking at your administration, amount of staff and efficiency and performance and find your savings there!
- As mentioned above.
- I am a single parent, earning a decent wage as I have a good job, but this increase is just another thing on top of everything else that leaves me with no disposable income at the end of each month.
- We will have less money to spend, we already had to pay extra for green bins, which are unavoidable for those of us with gardens.
- Residents are already suffering with massive increased costs with their day to day cost of living budgets, we should avoid further pain at all costs for the time being.
- it may well have a negative impact on our constituents but schools hospitals and roads plus police come at a cost
- More people who are only just managing would be put into hardship



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- We're all struggling to heat and feed our families an extra cost now is not going to help us, when it's not our fault. We're basically paying to be oppressed.
- It will definitely have a negative impact. We already struggle to pay for our children's school dinners for example. We are just above the threshold to get help. It's things like this that too is in to poverty.
- we have to ensure that the most vulnerable can pay their fair share which in certain case will mean that we need to give a reduction.
- when the bills are sent, a simple message about if you have difficulties to pay your council tax, please send an email XXXX@westnorthants.gov.uk so WNC can see how or if could help. That would show compassion. we need to encourage mature dialogue and break the stigma that the council will prosecute if you are in arrears. What is important is that WNC manage to collect without too much the use of an heavy hand.
- 2.99% with also the additional Adult extra precept, it means a 4.99% increase.
- Some vulnerable households maybe extra help with payment.
- We all know that we must pay our council tax, but should not Revenues and Benefits s be able to engage in a positive manner with the residents who cannot benefit of extra help from the council and make repayment plan meaning avoiding prosecution. on WNC web, a link with a friendly, reminding the seriousness of not paying but also an email address that the resident can explain his financial difficulties and WNC can then engages.
- As a former SNC resident the 4.99% will be higher due to harmonisation across the district and we are not receiving value for money
- Since the formation of West Northants Council, residents have demonstrated a lack of trust and anger, particularly South Northants residents who have absorbed the debt of the borough and county. A rise in Council Tax will not be received well for these residents who are ultimately paying for the 'debt' accumulated by the previous councils. If the total increase was 2.99% it would be far more acceptable.
- Affecting mental health
- Increase is suicide
- Increase in theft
- The negativity is stripping people of money they don't have at the moment for nothing in return.
- Financial squeeze on our already heavily taxed limited incomes.
- Families, the disabled, the elderly, the unemployed, single/double income households are already struggling to budget.
- I think an increase of 4.99% would have a highly negative impact. With the current cost of living crisis, this would increase financial pressures yet further. People are really struggling. It would be highly inappropriate to increase a greater financial burden.
- People are trying to pay rising prices from gas, fuel for cars and to feed families. They are having to pay more on car repairs from pothole damage and you just want to take more money. People will have to give up food or gas or fuel. People haven't budgeted for this because it's not expected. The govt should be forward planning for population rises and then we would not all be living in poverty because of a lack of foresight
- Work more efficiently and effectively cut waste and review the volume of people sent to do a job. People like me who have a limited income can make efficiency cuts why can't the council.

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- Yes, people already struggling, don't make it worse
- As there are already a number of serious cost of living impacts on people including higher mortgage payments, energy and food costs, there should be amore reasonable increase.
- An increase in council tax would mean we're paying more for a service which already does not and still won't deliver the basic requirements to make an area look respectable.
- As part of the tax increase, I would like to see a monthly scan and collection of oversized items which the normal bin collection service refuse/ cannot take.
- As above
- Don't increase it!! Actually listen to what we all want and stop funding stupid projects that line your pockets and don't help us
- The obvious negative impact is the additional pressure on household bills during a time of increased economic uncertainty. However, as stated above given the increased inflationary pressures on services the reduction in departmental spending would put services at severe risk if additional income is not implemented.
- need to consider that rates is one of largest bills paid by many households - should aim to minimise increase
- Increase in bills making things very difficult to pay
- Council needs to invest in growth of the county. Your past decision have been rubbish. Still the cost you paying to your vendors and contractors is lot.
- Alienates taxpayers towards WNC, a large majority of whom feel ill-will for the previous financial mismanagement which necessitated the merger.
- Money for most people is very tight at the moment especially with the energy bills going through the roof
- People will not be able to afford an increase. This will lead to more people.no.paying any council tax and getting into debt so conter productive.
- Less money for food and other bills
- Cost of living crisis already having an impact, rise in council tax will make situation worse. Needs top down review of council and its staffing and remove duplicate/redundant roles
- Reduced quality of life
- Stupid proposal far too many people in poverty now why make it worse
- If the total including all taxes was 6.5 percent, it would be too much.I read that the total could reach that figure.
- Could be avoided by getting rid of the political group running the council.
- Poverty, crime will increase with increases in taxation the solution is to extend income tax and only take from areas which can afford the costs
- I will have less money for heating which is going up again soon & so will have to cut down on buying food , going to the cinema, or stop using my car which will I will become more isolated.
- Any increase should not be below this level
- Obviously it will have a negative impact on the majority's finances
- Obviously, it will have a negative impact because it will be an increase on a household's spending/bills, which, in the case of council tax, they have to pay by law so will have to find the money from somewhere even if they do not have any increase in their income.
- The rise in council tax alongside my energy and food bills is a living joke. How are we meant to function and live like this. Being an adult and becoming a mother in this disgusting time is beyond stressful

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- Have you considered that further increases to peoples outgoings may lead to pressures on the council to support those who are pushed further into poverty? How many more people will not be able to afford to heat their homes, or buy decent food & this lack of access may result in the council being required to provide additional services.
- You have stated that the increase protects existing services, but then the budget goes on to say it proposed to reduce refuse collection to 3 weekly - this proposal is bonkers! It's ok for me being in a single occupancy house, but my neighbours bins (both black and recycling) are jam packed full every week. They already have more waste than they can fit in their bins. We will have more fly tipping, more vermin issues unless of course you plan to provide larger bins to everyone.
- I haven't fully understood why there is such an apparent gap in income in this budget as there are COUNTLESS pages which you really need to get better at summarising. Or is it just increase costs?
- If everyone keeps increasing wages inline or close to inflation where does it stop?
- Residents should be given choices around where services could be cut and asked to make decisions
- Reduce household income.
- Doesn't solve the challenge of many estates in Northampton that are trapped in new build "maintaince fee" scams as the council continue to refuse to adopt these areas, yet these residents are still paying council tax.
- Yes. Services are appalling why should we be expected to pay more
- Implement a cost efficient programme where money can be saved
- I am already struggling to pay fuel bills, mortgage, run a car for work and buy food. Increase to the council tax is yet another squeeze on finances
- The increase will lead more financial problem of the people in the community.
- Already Many people are struggling with their bills
- Please Don't increase the bill.
- Now that we have yet another council the service so far leaves a lot to be desired and the general public are being held responsible to pay 5he shortfalls of Northants county council .
- As per comments above. On the most part, the people who be if it from community grants tend to be in a stronger financial position than the wider community who will be hit hardest by the increase
- I am concerned that an increase of less than the rate of inflation will inevitably compromise quality of services, especially given the cost pressures outlined in the budget report. This would of course disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable ibn our communities.
- More struggles
- A council that already fails to deliver on contracts already paid for has no right to ask for an increase.
- With the cost of living at the moment this should be put off for another year. There are people who cannot heat their homes or feed their families
- As above
- People will struggle to pay. People's finances are already impacted. Even the working people on a decent wage are struggling
- The negative impact would be that I would have to take food from my children's mouths to pay the extra. My suggestion to avoid this impact is to ask [name] or the central government that caused this level of inflation to foot the

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bill for the excess that otherwise wouldn't have been required if they hadn't decided to experiment with the UK's economy?

- I will have less money to spend on private services I use due to missing council services.
- Clearly it will have a negative impact on those struggling financially and will have a negative impact on the view of WNC
- Statutory services will continue to deteriorate as they are often outsourced and already at an unavailable level, this figure will not improve them.
- As above, people are already struggling financially with cost of living, most people have if had any wage increases have not had it in line with inflation and are therefore still struggling
- I can just about afford my bills as it is
- Cost of living and energy are already at record highs, this will just push more into debt
- Cost of living crisis at the moment with bills going up anyway and now council tax will go up.
- Increasing taxes in a time of high inflation feels counter productive. Mortgage costs, energy costs, food costs, motoring costs are all up so tax increases will fuel resentment Demonstrate efficient management of current tax revenues. Show a tangible benefit to increases proposed.
- With the cost of everything else increasing it will bring hardship to a large group of people. If there was a visible improvement in services I feel people would be happy to pay.
- Local people deserve better without being asked to pay the maximum possible amount.
- You are looking to change the number of collections for the black bin which is ridiculous. As part of the service we are already required to pay an additional fee for the green bin to be collected so it will impact on infestation of animals especially in the months
- Money is already tight
- I will have less money for heating which is going up again soon & so will have to cut down on buying food , going to the cinema, or stop using my car which will I will become more isolated.
- The negative impact is that residents do not have any confidence in this current council
- Paying yet more for less
- Better management from WNC would go along was to restore my faith.
- Families are seeing incomes squeezed. This will place those who are struggling, or on the edge of surviving into an even worse position. Council tax should be frozen for 2023/24 tax year.
- People are so concerned about finance and this will add to their worries
- Not having our general waste bin being collected every three weeks is honestly ridiculous, considering our bin is absolutely brimming after two weeks. What am I supposed to do with the extra weeks worth of general waste?? I think people will be flytipping their rubbish and you will see a huge increase of pests.
- People on lower incomes, with disabilities, with poor mental health, with no support will be impacted negatively.
- The current exemptions and discounts for council tax need to be re-jigged! Allowing discounts for a staggered income, not just based on banding. For example, a student in the house provides a 25 percent reduction at the

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moment. So if you added households earning £30k a year or less, and have more than 1 adult and children in the house you get 30 percent reduction. Then 40k a year or less 25 and so on? Although that would be complex to instigate and keep checks on. You do have to register to vote so you should be aware of the majority of households occupants?

- We will look to leave the county.
- if you are going to increase it you can't also cut services, its one or other not both
- Less money in our pockets to pay for food. Just do not increase it. There are diminishing services already.
- We just cannot afford to keep paying more and more. You should be looking at savings and passing them onto the residents rather than burdening us with more costs.
- By not implementing a charge for the use of the racecourse carpark. This would keep the street parking to a minimum and be fair to the local residents. Furthermore, I repeat that the access for emergency vehicles would be easier.
- This could push/contribute to Families falling into debt, as a middle income family we are acutely aware of the financial challenge facing us. The impact of energy/cost of living increases on families on low incomes is catastrophic.
- Cost of living on a pension does not afford much leeway
- To many people are I struggling and in debt this will only help to push more people into debts
- I don't get adequate services despite paying a huge amount of money. There are pot holes everywhere and council workmen just sit in there vans for hours on end.
- The Tories cut your torie budget but yet your punishing us for this
- less money to spend on food and heating etc
- Too many things are going up in price, fear too many people will not be able to afford the increase.
- The increase in Council tax will not make any difference to the services you offer
- Juggling money
- S
- Further negative impacts can be avoided by not increasing taxes until things are more stable in Europe (current energy crises).
- This could lead to further financial difficulties/poverty. People will choose to saty warm in their homes and feed themselves before paying council tax
- People are already stressed and struggling with cost of living crisis and you want to continue to rise things.
- Council Tax remains a non-progressive tax with property value and not income or assets being the primary basis. As such an increase of 4.99% will cause significant difficulties to tax payers as stated above.
- If the council believes that this is justified, then it should be placed at 5.00% and sent to full local referendum.
- Increasing council tax could have a negative impact on many household budgets. Reduced rates need to be in place for those on low incomes
- The only negative is the impact this puts upon working families/households that do not receive any financial help, they are already under immense pressure from all other bills increasing.
- Outrageous, do you have no idea of the financial crisis we are going through?

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- I also strongly object to having a Northampton Town Council, which I didn't vote for, and is just another cost and unnecessary layer of local government.
- n/a
- We in a cost living crisis and putting money up people not going to pay
- People are already struggling financially and you do not make access to the national government support schemes easy for those entitled. You have already cut services dramatically making green bins chargeable at a time this can be afforded. To increase this cost and to make black bins on a 3 weekly cycle is unacceptable. The council do very little for the residents your social care provision for adults and children is a disgrace and year on year you allocate 'more funding' to it and increase council tax yet there are no improvements as a parent of a young adult we are on the front line of seeing the lack of services from you!
- Negative impacts would be people who are already facing poverty. Many people already in arrears with council tax. Due to increase in all bills food banks are overwhelmed and not able to provide as they once could. People cannot take another raise and thjs will push them over the edge
- Residents and others will be paying for a failure to properly track inflation through having to pay more elsewhere (i.e. parking charges) or through service cuts. Ultimately this will lead to a reduction in community services and footfall in the town centre.
- There is less money in the pockets of your residents who are the one keeping local economies afloat! Telling us to pay more for less is absolutely absurd especially when all your employees had a £1500 pay rise!! So you have the money plus the £3million from the garden waste service and unitary finding!
- You already bankrupted one council (South Northants), try to learn the lessons, cut bureaucracy, cut red tape, stop giving pay rises when you're hiking prices externally..
- People cannot afford it. End of. It will have a detrimental effect on people's mental health.
- As you have just given all your staff a pay rise, I suggest you do not increase!
- Yes. Families will be further stretched while the Tory rich sit back with the feet up next to the fire.
- Raising council taxes is not right
- Longer time between bin collection will build up refuse and encourage vermin.
- Personally the increase would hit our household to the point of reducing spending in the local economy, savings that impact our self-sufficiency and and threatening debt and poverty for many. There are funds available and that continue to be poorly managed, as a voluntary sector agency I have first hand experience of witnessing this in WNC whilst as a charity we receive no statutory funding and our wages are a quarter of the WNC wages, and we run mostly on volunteers etc.
- I cannot afford to pay more council tax. It will face a detrimental effect on my family.
- The only negative impact is it will keep the unfairness around the fact that people in Northampton get a much better deal and this can be overcome with a special expenses account. If you do this you dont have to charge the rest of us so much.
- Yes we are all suffering and adding extra cost to individuals lowers the people's ability to cope with inflation

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- Some people are struggling to heat their homes and buy food, how are the elderly going to manage or single residencies, if it needs to be done do it in future years where we aren't all struggling so much.
- A lot more people may struggle to be able to meet this increase on top of all their other pressures - I didn't spot any provision for bad debt from non-payment
- As everyone my age, we've paid our share in early years!
- Many people are struggling to pay for stuff already and can't afford more
- Unaffordable in the current cost of living crisis
- People will get into council tax arrears. Even more young people will struggle to find affordable housing. More families will have to pay bills and miss meals.
- Simply can't afford this
- More fat cats lining their pockets,
- Stream line middle and upper management tears
- Our council tax is already higher than anyone's I know, another hike in price amongst mortgage increases, food prices, electricity and gas, home insurance increases, petrol, car insurance, I genuinely don't think I can take another increase in yet another service and bill it will cripple my family and would likely have to sell our house.
- Obvious imminent impact would be families struggling even more. Please see my comment in box above.
- The increase is unaffordable
- The Council should make efficiency savings
- People struggling already with money and this increase would not help.
- This would ensure more pressure on existing high costs to households. Do not increase.
- Many people are already choosing between food and heating. It's likely that illness will rise and vulnerable people will become more isolated. If council tax is to increase more support is required not just for the most vulnerable but for all who would have previously been comfortable and have been pushed into difficulty.
- Services bad in south of Northants, roads bad, no public transport
- The negative impact will be those struggling with increased energy & food costs particularly the elderly . Consideration should be given to those who live in higher band properties & are elderly as they may not always be considered to be in the former category , but may be struggling in silence.
- Negative. Money is being asked from the prong population
- It would cause the standard of living for residents to decrease further due to having a rise in council tax but no rise in their own salaries.
- It will further increase the financial burden on normal families in the district, who are already struggling
- Just asking people for more money right now is not right. Nobody should have to pay more right now. Maybe if authorities and the government sorted out the waste that there is within public services then overall things might improve but until that day happens nothing will improve
- We are in a cost of living crisis and this council is not considering the true compound impact on residents
- As above. People would potentially tolerate an increase in basic council tax if service levels and other costs are kept the same. It's immoral and unethical to increase costs but reduce services and to then charge more for extra things as

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well. Maybe you should look at how much is being spent on council allowances, council overstaffing and ridiculous building costs.

- Thinking outside the box , less consultants running the council !
- Wages aren't going up and services aren't any better
- One part of society (working middle-class) who are constantly hit with rising taxes (amongst many, many other cost rises) and yet, another, annual circa 5% increase is seen as necessary. CUT YOUR CLOTH. Working from home WFH has, surely, demonstrated a reduced work force, including those higher up the 'food chain' can operate with reduced manning!
- I am not sure, with all the other increases planned how I will be able to afford the proposed increase.
- What a ridiculous question, we're in a cost of living crisis
- There could well be more defaulters, which will negate the increase.
- As above: The cost of living crisis already has us deciding whether to heat or eat and you are proposing to add to this massive burden, your timing is horrendous, you should be looking at ways to support the community not add to the burden. I am very sure that cuts can be made to entertainment budgets, to comfort costs and such like rather placing the burden on your already browbeaten residents
- Greater financial hardship for residents.
- No increase
- I think the council should look at their expenditure instead, look at staffing and cut costs by not using agency staff
- Please see above
- Unfortunately the government needs to make a financial plan
- Additional costs at a time when people are already struggling to pay their bills. Those on benefits are not impacted and the super rich can afford the rise but there is a core in the middle that are getting continually squeezed
- People are fed up of the way this town is being run. Get some positive, future thinkers on board so we can plan properly for the next 25 years!
- I'm sure that there will be people in West Northants who find this increase difficult, but there will also be many more people who can afford it. It's a balance.
- The Council should look at its own wasteful expenditure first.
- Stop promoting causes and concentrate on basic requirements only
- Every increase means less money spent in the local economy, which will ultimately have a long term effect on Northampton, which lets be honest is struggling anyway
- Obviously negative impact people do not have money ,eating and heating more important, less money to spend to keep business going , way to solve do not put the council tax up
- The council seems to employ outside consultants at great expense to do the work of people it employs, who do not seem qualified.
- WNC is not doing so well in the eyes of residents right now. Spend less on ridiculous "art" installations and more on providing the service we pay for.
- See above
- Cost of living is bad enough as it is, this will result in more households being pushed to the brink (which will ultimately result in more costs to support said households to the council).
- I can't afford very much with the cost of living increases and my huge gas bill. I can't afford this either. Damn Tories have ruined this country and this county.



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- The negative impact is people already are disgusted at the service we don't get, yet just heard that you've all got a pay increase. It's because of pay increases you went bankrupt and the higher ones like the CEO what does he do for his money I'd really like to know what they all do for their money as we are getting less and less paying more and more then expect us to pay for services we are already paying for.
- People simply can't afford it at the moment.
- It costs more and more for fewer services as West Northants Council waste our money
- More outgoings for poorer families yet again
- I feel Parking should remain priced as it is in the multi-story carparks. The two hours free on Saturdays and all day free on Sunday's helps the town's retail and restaurant businesses and the cinemas.
- Please see above comment. Perhaps central government should stop giving so much money away to [description] and worry about [description] [...]giving sufficient money to councils to fulfil their obligations
- More people struggling
- Food poverty
- Social Injustice
- Financial pressures
- Our outgoing have already increased by £450 per month. Adding another £80 a year doesn't sound much but it's crippling. I suggest you learn to budget more carefully and not waste money on extravagant expenses. I seem to remember you've had to change the name of your area after you spent thousands on a team building trip among other things abroad!
- Most people can't afford this increase
- Have to pay extra for green waste collections. Roads are shocking and never repaired
- It will push more and more people towards the poverty line.
- It's a rip off
- Some people already struggle to put food on the table
- If the minimum level of service is not what is currently being provided or has been lowered since previous years then this would amount to a reduction in the service as perceived by all the local residents. As local residents we do not have the internal knowledge to come up with a plan as to how negative impacts could be avoided, however some potential suggestions to the bin collections could be bigger or additional bins to combat less frequent collections or taking any rubbish which is next to the bins.
- Some people will try to cut other costs because of this, especially energy costs and food bills.
- See above answer!
- Stop using people that have no choice as cash cows. It pushes more people into poverty and you will end up losing more money covering the costs. While you are forking out money to help, there is no incentive to get work as the rise in everything makes it not worth it when councils are giving out free money
- It will potentially have a negative impact on those already struggling financially
- We are currently dealing with a cost of living crisis.
- Your local residents can't afford an increase on top of everything else. My feeling is the Council has been mismanaged and we are now in a worse position than we were before the councils merged
- People are already living beyond their means

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- Of course it will if the shops were to appear again and let's face it it was the high rents that closed them people wouldn't mind parking fees but as things are this will stop what few go there
- We would have less disposable income and would be less likely to contribute to the local economy
- Would it make any difference what I thought. I doubt it
- Total failure of council will not be to anyone's benefit.
- Any increase is effecting people so you must make sure no more services are lost or worsen.
- Can't afford it, pensioners
- our town centre is already suffering and lets be honest, its the last place anyone wants to visit. i wanted to go visit the [name] shop this weekend, but when i realised i had to pay for parking, considering how much you already from your residences i refused to (just goes to show how long its been since ive parked in town - used to be free) - this is just another blow and will continue to cause further issues, those extra pounds you need from us will have an impact on the extra pennies we have available to spend in the shops in and around northampton
- remember that our bills are going up everywhere we can't afford to pay anymore. The council now needs to make changes as the new shape of it should be saving money. Think of the costs of life gone up and use jam jars to budget sounds to us that [name] knows ways to save more money but they at the top aren't letting [...]do it. Let the[...] do it [they] knows [they scores and ain't that daft either. Why not take him to Morrisons and ask people's on the till what they think. Haven't seen anyone from the council doing there shopping there apart from the mayor [name] who's another good [...] stopped and helped me and my [...] when we didn't now ho to talk to about stuff. [they] good and also shops at market ask [them] to help we can't have all the bills going up everywhere we won't be able to pay the food and leccy plus need clothes
- Would force more into povety
- See above!
- If we had decent big named shops, a full market, clean streets, empty street bins, pot hole free roads, free weekend parking, cheaper week day parking, car parks that were clean, well lit & in good condition, 100% better services for all then I'm sure nobody would mind the C/T going up but as we don't then EVERYBODY minds!
- Inevitable negative impact given the Cost of Living crisis and most household budgets are stretched.
- Many people are currently struggling to make ends meet, particularly with the cost of heating and inflation. The 1st thing they need is yet another increased bill.
- I suggest you stop paying executives such huge salaries.
- Households are already struggling, this will lead to increased debt, mental health issues and further poverty.
- More and more people are gonna need to use help services as they can't afford to pay bills so in the long run just adding more pressure on the already struggling council budget. So services will have to be cut when it could be avoided in the first place.
- Be more accountable

### Negative impacts and mitigations

- The Council should save money themselves stop paying Councillors for attending meetings would be a start, just pay them travel allowance instead
- All the bills have risen. I might have to give up working and move.
- It would be money from the food shop causing a issue with our family.
- It will have a negative impact because citizens will have less money just to stay the same.
- This is extra money a lot of people are going to need to find. It feels harsh to charge people more during a cost of living crisis. It will add additional hardship to people.
- People are struggling already to pay bills an increase would lead to more default payments.
- People are already squeezed and more tax would mean less disposable income and therefore less is spent on the local businesses.
- No
- Increased costs to households during a cost of living crisis
- I am concerned that an increase of less than the rate of inflation will inevitably compromise quality of services, especially given the cost pressures outlined in the budget report. This would be likely to disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities.
- The council tax is far too expensive for the services provided in this dirty and run down town.
- The council should reduce their expenses and staff and not waste our money (every pound should be accounted for.)
- At a time of crippling costs for families councils should be finding ways to mitigate their costs not add to the burden. Most houses are not band D and youve now added a green bin charge too. So re look at your cost base what and who do you really need?

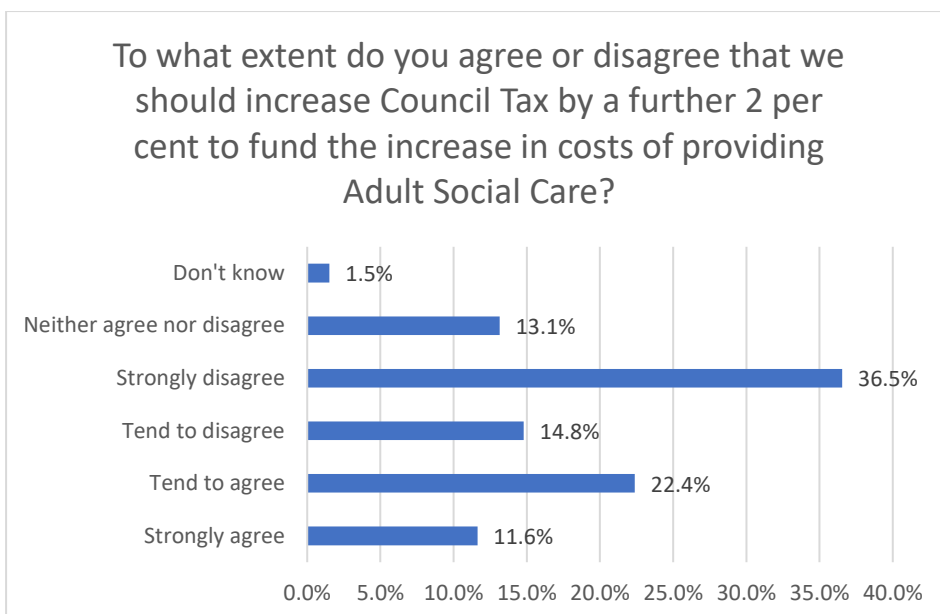
### 5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by a further 2 per cent to fund the increase in costs of providing Adult Social Care?

- Example: What would a 2 per cent increase mean for a Band D property?

As an example, a 2 per cent adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £32.26 per year (62p per week) for 2023/24 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.

There were 792 responses to this question.

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Strongly agree	92	11.6%
Tend to agree	177	22.4%
Tend to disagree	118	14.8%
Strongly disagree	289	36.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	104	13.1%
Don't know	12	1.5%



**6. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:**

There were 326 responses to this question.

- Strongly agree / tend to agree**
- The frontline staffing is dire in social care and needs to be supported. However too much is siphoned off to the top
  - If the funding for social care can be ring fenced this is a clear financial need
  - It is necessary and still not enough.
  - The money is needed. There is no acceptable alternative.
  - You have little choice, in reality. Central Govt places responsibilities on you with little consideration of the effects. None of us, council or residents, likes it and would wish it otherwise, but we are where we are.
  - Adult social care is woefully underfunded
  - Social care is in crisis
  - we need services and they cost money
  - adult care is essential
  - WNC has an ageing population and WNC has an important role to plan for the well being of the older residents. If the extra 2% is used wisely to develop better strategies how to stay healthier and fitter longer, how to stay independent, this would help us for future budgets.
  - There has been in recent years a growth in the number of adults seeking additional support particularly in later life. Along with children's services this is one of the most critical services that the council provides and additional funding would have a detrimental impact on other services areas if the precept is not increased.
  - we need more services not less
  - Might leave some cash to fix the dreadful state of the county roads
  - Social Care should be protected
  - ASC costs are not entirely inescapable:
  - When both myself (and my son in another authority) carried out a deep dive on activities we discovered a fairly high proportion of wrong / avoidable costs. Enabling a 6% reduction in spend with better outcomes.

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- Whilst I agree that an increase is needed, splitting away the Adult Social Care finances into a separate 'pot' and then adding a supplementary increase makes no logical sense to me. Each of the functions/services provided by the Council will be subject to differing financial pressures so why is it that just Adult Social Care is singled out and effectively separated from the main budget?
- Adult care is under resourced
- I think that this needs to be funded by central government rather than local residents who are already feeling the pinch. My [relative] (employed and working hard) is having to use a food bank. What you bill as a very small increase is actually impossible for some families who don't make the cut for benefits such as free school meals but are on the breadline in real terms. What are we doing to support those families?
- There is clearly a desperate need especially in the absence of any central government action to address this longstanding funding problem
- Inclusion is important. Those in society who are more vulnerable need more help.
- The impact of Adult Social Care on other services ie Police and Ambulance is proving detrimental to their service levels.
- Care is needed but you're not spending the money wisely. We need more care so carers need to be treated better
- Growing population of elderly that need support
- Adult Social Care is in desperate need of extra funds.
- Adult care is important to the community
- Because you are disgracefully underfunded by central government
- Adult social care is starved of finance and staffing
- Central government should really be providing more assistance rather than expecting residents to foot these extra costs
- Would suggest that some of this should be used for vulnerable children and young people too
- As above, although the Council could do more to make it clear how this is being spent on Adult Social Care not being sucked into the corporate report. I also feel in the comms that goes with the budget, it needs to be made clearer that if this tax isn't raised then the Council would not be able to meet its duties and/or further non-statutory services would be cut
- I tend to agree but am dubious as to whether social care will really improve.
- Because adult social care is important and has a knock on effect on the NHS.
- It is important that adult care is properly funded, but Council the tax increase is not the fairest way of achieving this in the long-term.
- The services are already over- stretched and this impacts both on residents' experience and also on NHS pressures, so it is important to address it. I am only sorry so little has been done at national level to address this and that it has been left to local councils.
- Prices are rising across the board and we need to keep up with inflation
- considering the current inflation rate. this seems reasonable
- As above - understand why needed but also difficult in current times
- It is clear that social care needs as much money as possible - all linked to National Health 'crisis'
- You need to sort social care out not just use it as an excuse to raise more money and not do anything to improve the situation

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- The current underfunding of Adult Social Care is a national disgrace, and is clearly one of the main underlying reasons for the current problems in our hospitals.
- The NHS is collapsing in front of our eyes, partly due to the lack of social care (along with inadequate funding over the past decade). Better social care provision is needed
- Adult social care is not something that I have used so far. However I accept that the lack of good social care (and therefore the ability to get patients out of hospitals into care) is one of the reasons that the NHS is under so much pressure. We need to fix this. I am happy with the increase as long as it achieves this goal in Northants.
- I agree with an increase for social care as the national insurance rise did not happen
- The service for adult care has been below par for numbers years, I support finances to support this
- I would agree if you spent the whole 2% on social care, but I seriously doubt that will happen.
- As above. Short term pain for a longer term gain and adequate services.
- Looking after most vulnerable adults is one of the statutory duty. Furthermore, in my opinion, due to WNC demography - ageing population - it is essential that we put in place the innovations that ICS will need that the future of old age in WNC is compassionate and the care package for our vulnerable adults is right.
- Concerned that this increase will not be sufficient to maintain services
- We need to be able to care for people properly at home or in care homes to stop the bed blocking that is causing problems in our hosp[itals]
- This is an important service that we all may need in the future - if you want it you must pay for it!
- Our elderly need our care and consideration
- This is a vitally important area that requires a commensurate level of funding and support.
- Adult care is needed. But from local government
- See response to previous question
- Those with a social care requirement should be provided with services required. Again though this has to be well managed.
- Again to maintain a service which is under increasing pressure rise is appropriate
- I tend to agree this is necessary however the care provided should not be from bank staff who get paid double for the same job a loyal employee does, it should be to attract permanent qualified staff who are paid a suitable wage for the job they are doing
- Adult social care doesn't really mean that much to me, its not an area that i'm close to so i don't understand fully what an extra 2% increase would be going to. For me to really understand the value, and why this needs to increase i would need clear language explaining the services under this banner.
- We need to be able to care for people properly at home or in care homes to stop the bed blocking that is causing problems in our hosp[itals]
- Adult social care needs a complete overhaul my mum was in the system for 8 years it has been broken for many years.
- I feel the only way to employ more people to care for the elderly and to prevent bed blocking is to pay workers a wage higher than the average

Strongly agree / tend to agree

supermarket wage, also to make sure their petrol cost are properly reimbursed.

- As above. Essential services need funding
- The issues in social care affect us all, hospital admissions, welfare services, crime, familial challenge/conflict impact upon all within the home particularly children. This is an area of great need and this cost to households, if managed and allocated wisely would have a positive impact.
- The costs needs to be managed by the Officers to ensure best value
- Though I strongly agree and this should be ring-fenced, I believe central government should be funding more of this! In addition, the split North and West agreed at unitary, should be remediated in light of circumstances now known re actual numbers seeking adult social care support that were not known / anticipate at unitary!
- Need to maintain basic service level
- The elderly population is increasing and so proportionately more community resources needs to be spent on it.
- Improving adult social care would relieve the pressure on the NHS
- Adult social care has been underfunded for years. A big problem in the past was their allocated funds being transferred to other areas.
- Adult social care requires improvement in order to help move patients from hospitals into more appropriate care settings allow to relieve pressures on the NHS.
- With the population living longer we need to ensure the older generation are well looked after. We should look to utilise the older generation knowledge, skills and experience more and provide work opportunities.
- As above
- Adult social care already under pressure and cannot meet increased demand.
- Service currently provided is inadequate, so further erosion unacceptable.
- Adult Social Care needs a lot more funding
- Adult social care is so important, a 2 percent council tax for this reason would be worth the rise, anything more than that is unacceptable at this time
- I have no objection to an increase in social care however have concerns .how this money will also be spent. To a degree local government rely on central government funding approach for adult social care which is fundamentally flawed and until this is resolved I fear local government will always be under resourced.
- No real other option
- If this money actually goes towards what its earmarked for and helps actually provide Adult Social Care and maybe go some way to reduce bed blocking in hospitals?
- Much needed
- no other option given the cost pressures
- Adult social care is an area which does require increased investment.
- Social care is inadequate as it is, if the contribution isn't increased, it's going to get even worse - which is unthinkable!
- As above, I don't know enough to know where else the council could get the necessary money. I think Adult Social Care is extremely important, most importantly to allow everyone to lead a good and happy life, but also for the indirect benefits such as relieving some pressure on health & other services, contributing to the economy etc. I have worked as a carer for working-age adults with disabilities, and feel this is often ignored - people think of care as

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- 'older people leaving hospital', and important as that is, there is lots more needed too.
- Not sure what adult social care means, but I am fed up with seeing you g adults with nothing to do but roam the streets
  - Social care is a right mess . Something has to be done about people getting stuck in hospital due to lack of support in the community
  - Protection of services
  - Again costs are rising everywhere so this is probably a necessary rise too
  - A specific focused and ring fenced increase to address a specific and important issue
  - Because adult social care is sorely lacking and needs investment
  - The only reason we are having to increase an extra 2% is because the government have been underfunding councils since 2010.
  - It's not fair that the public are expected to pay for their mismanagement of funds but if we don't cover the increase our elderly people suffer.
  - Start to bring services back in house.
  - recognise the increasing demand for adult social care and that it is important that it is adequately funded
  - i feel Adult Social Care is such an essential area and there are so many vulnerable people who need this support it has to be a priority to all. we all have to take some responsibility for the most vulnerable people of society.
  - Inflation makes this a no brainer decision
  - See answer regarding 2.99% increase.
  - A civilised society needs to care for the most vulnerable people. It is simply the right thing to do.
  - It affects my [relative] living with disabilities
  - Costs are increasing so unfortunately it is a necessary evil
  - I own a nursing home and know what crisis the elderly are facing
  - This is a vitally important area that requires a commensurate level of funding and support.
  - Increasing costs

Neither agree nor disagree

- The council should increase the precept to the amount they see fit, not to a nominal figure to avoid a referendum.
- As per previous comment with regard to 4.99%.
- I am not affected by this at this time, should it not come out of NI contributions?
- I understand that lots of people need the help, and I hope they all get the help.
- Need more information on how this breaks down
- Again no improvement in adult social care based on previous increases so what is different this time
- It's frustrating that there is sufficient funding in place for this already
- How efficient are our current services, are they good value for money, just increasing budgets doesnt always equate to improved services, often more waste!
- How would these increases be spent within that sector? We are already hearing of issues within the healthcare system even after previous increases



Neither agree nor disagree

and government emergency funding. Will this be an automatic increase every year to cover failings?

- If the money could be proven to go where it is supposed to, fair enough.
- The problem is doesn't matter the 2% won't get any better social care the social care system needs changing to the old version of state
- Run hospitals
- I don't know very much about ASC, other than what I have heard in the media recently. It appears there are problems across the UK but again it looks like you need a review of the whole service. There are numerous vacancies and more than average roles filled with agency staff. This must be a huge drain on finances. You need a full review and let your service users have a say, be part of focus groups etc.
- I work in adult social care and can see how desperately the monies are needed but again you're going to be squeezing already struggling families.
- The govt should provide funding for this and has failed to do so year after year and while I appreciate it should increase why should all tax payers have to pay an additional levy on their properties, this would be far better paid for from central government so that every income tax payer pays extra and it would spread the burden across the whole population and not just home owners.
- I believe adult social care should be addressed in totally different manner, like we prepare a baby to grow into being a baby a adult after 55 should train his mind to live healthy and peacefully. He should have access to local facilities that will do that and he should be asked to volunteer to look after his own elderly or at the facility.
- It is a ridiculous question as I have no visibility on the areas of challenge are and how an increase in absolute values should be diverted towards
- While an increase to funding for social care is urgently needed to support the current system, the system itself is so corrupt and flawed a review of the entire system would be more prudent than blindly increasing funding
- I think the whole NHS/social care system should be looked at and restructured taking in waste reduction ,managerial structure e.g. do we really need [job type] managers paid more than the people doing the job e.g. doctors and nurses and also looking into the profiteering of drug companies to the NHS.
- As a user of this service in the past year, this is broken and as a Conservative Council your party is culpable for the mess.
- As above. Ridiculous to expect a proper answer without supplying data
- Since the creation of the Unitary there has been far less joined up working around using activity as a means to improve peoples health and well-being. You only have to look at the cabinet members reports - nothing about the shining light in the area which is the Leisure Trust and what they do to improve health. if you improve health you wont need to spend so much on social care.
- I agree that social care needs to be catered for but from my own experience it is a huge effort to be accepted for social care from the council. I would be happy to pay more towards this but I would like to have the confidence that the next time I need care for a grandparent it is not going to be so stressful to prove that they eligibility for care.
- We need to do something but I see too many people getting away without paying Council Tax (e.g. boaters) but then relying on Councils to 'come to the party' when they need help. I think EVERYONE should contribute.

#### Neither agree nor disagree

- If funds are used in the right way I tend to agree but with the council's track record of mismanaging finances, I have no faith that the funds will be used in the correct way with real efficiency.
- The government have to also help out, and this area is where they could.
- I do not know enough about the subject.
- Again it needs to be paid for from somewhere
- I feel Adult social care services probably waste money, much the same as the NHS. A better solution would be to examine positive ways to save money and I don't mean by cutting services or staff!
- For very similar reasons to my last answers however I am less knowledgeable about adult social care and so I don't feel I can give a faire opinion.
- I think these problems should be tackled at the source ie issues should be addressed from childhood but as this isn't the case and we already have so many adults who need support I find this a hard one to make a decision on
- If the money helped with social care it would be going to a good cause.
- More effective management of the social care and other budgets would be more useful. The council got a "reset" with the new boundaries after going bust - but the same councillors are running the show with the same old philosophies - they need to rethink.
- I disagree with tax rises but understand the need for them

#### Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Beleive this should be funded by central govt
- i think people will struggle with an increase for ASC. the ASC service isnt great and yet is squeezed and relied upon more in SN with older persons etc
- My earnings are not increasing by the amount of inflation, only 3% in the coming year so once Council Tax is up 3% I cannot afford any other increase such as a further 2% for social care. If you insist on this I will have to cut back even more on food and fuel use. WNC is in a tricky position BUT so am I.
- The point about affordability to households remains.
- as above
- As above
- Strongly disagree, people who are in full-time work and don't qualify for benefits are REALLY struggling, why hit people with this at this current time. Some of those really struggling are your employees.
- there are charities to assist adults and we do not do a good job in adult social care as it is so feel the whole section needs an overhaul with the money it already has rather than wasting more money that will be spent frivolously as it seems to be anyway.
- This should be government funded
- Adult social care needs to be rationalised and better focused.
- Rejuggle the money you're already spending. Remove people in unnecessary jobs.
- Use reserves!
- WNC is an inefficient organisation that wastes tax payers money. Many departments, such as enforcement, do nothing and so should be scrapped creating a saving.
- Senior employees are just time-serving procrastinators and should be removed proving a significant saving in their salaries.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- We keep paying and social care never improves? Where has the money gone form the previous social care levy?
- As above
- We simply cannot afford any more, we will be begging on the streets next to pay our Council tax. You need to cut your cloth according to your means and stop the wasted money on too many pen pushers. We only have a finite amount of money which we can't stretch any further!!
- You added additional tax last year and the system is still a mess
- I am trying to pay for myself, let alone someone else!
- Time to be more accountable for your spending, stop paying all these managers and consultants
- As before
- Refer to previous answers
- The rates keep going up yet the services get less. I object to having useless Police Commissioner, let the CC run [the] force not some jobs worth.
- Whilst I agree social care needs reform, hammering us with more increases is not fair.
- The council tax is already high enough.
- National insurance rises should be supporting social care, along with an astonishing c44% of all public spending on the NHS. The money is not a problem; it is the failure of central and local government to reform and manage services better.
- Daventry is a dying town, and I am expected to pay more than £300 per month to live here. House is on the market, it's a joke
- As above
- Wages not increasing reflective to other inflation increases
- I have experienced financial costs of adult social care. Care Homes charge way too much in the first place for each residents' stay; those that run the properties end up with large profits for themselves. So why should residents of the LA area have to foot the bill. Furthermore, central government funding should be greater improved.
- You should be cutting services not constantly increasing taxes.
- How about spending the money that we pay on council tax now on trying to keep our streets clean where we live it's like a fly tipping Zone and the streets are disgusting and rats are frequently seen
- The future of Social Care funding should be addressed by central government
- Stop paying for hotel's to accommodate asylum seekers that's where you can save money if you're really struggling cut your booss pay how much dose he or she get payed the mayor how much dose [they earn never met the [...]] in my life
- As above. Take it from somewhere else to fund.
- I don't think it is fair to further squeeze families.
- What adult social is provided by the council? I don't know of any also why do we not have a proper GP Surgery now.?
- This should be properly funded by central government. Put your efforts into lobbying Government to restore their funding to local government and stop doing their dirty work by increasing charges we can't afford.
- It's not really clear why this service needs more funding. So it's hard to make more comments on this over & above those already made.
- Stop funding silly diversity courses, and cut down on unwarranted big capital dream projects. Focus on our elederly residents and provide them with full

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

entitled social care from your vast unproductive resources, staff, cut down default managers like data managers who play computer games , there is a lot that can be done if you have the will to do.

- Adult social care is a mess. It needs to be revolutionised completely. Not increasing costs to the poor tax payer.
- The council are charging for things that some people don't see any real benefits from so of course they don't want to pay more, it feels unfair.
- Why are we now paying for the social care crisis?
- As previous. Absolutely not. Start making savings and assess the council's administration and staff efficiency and performance.
- You cant just throw money at a problem, your issue is with staff, many carers are very lazy and do bare minimum, then they sit on the phones in the staff room until a manager tells them to do something.
- If I had more to give I would. However with prices going up and no pay rises I like many are at breaking point.
- Because its useless extra funding for it won't work, you need more people who actually care, I'm a carer for a mental health sufferer and she has had no help and what little help she has had hasn't been worth it!
- Again for the reasons already stated. We cannot afford it. The giver meant need to increase funding to you to pay this. Stop expenses claims by civil servants and mps locally. Stop putting on lunches when doing training. Sell some of the councils properties. Cut costs in other ways.
- Focus instead on cost reduction. Find and eliminate waste within the WNC management structure and operating systems
- We cant afford this with the cost of living we are struggling as it is
- I tried to get help for my 89 year old [relative] who has paid all [their] bills all [their] life for nothing and your requested 2% is not going to change that it's not money but mangement you need to look at first.
- Same response as above.
- Because govt policy not to plan for population growth isn't on me. The population of England has increased by 10 million in 40 years. No new hospitals or social care has been funded in that time and govt hasn't planned ahead. They can put men in space that is no a priority and spent millions on election campaigns but they can't find the money to sort social care so the easiest way is to burden the public.
- This cost shouldn't be a shared cost funded by the community especially as ts aimed a people who probably never use the service. People using this service should contribute more towards their needs as mist get additional funds to help.
- No increase/decrease would be good for the services you provide
- Same reasons
- As above
- Some adults need the support. Some hide their wealth so it's not used on their care or list at death. Get better at digging out those who hide wealth to claim from the system.
- All residents should not have to pay to fund the needs of the few. This should be means tested
- We need to protect elderly and vulnerable adults but cost of living is impacting every household.
- If there is a need to increase the funding for Adult Social Care there should be a cut in other services to provide the essential services. There is too much

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

money spent on 'whimsical' services. If we are experiencing 'hard times' the council should reevaluate which services can be cut completely.

- See below.
- Exceeds my increase in wages, so effectively you are forcing me to spend less on food, heat and other essentials. This, alongside national tax increases will cause real hardship.
- If this would help people really struggling of course I would strongly agree. The problem is take people who have worked jolly hard for 50 plus years and own their very own humble abode are penalized and get no help whatsoever
- These services should be means tested, or funded by those who use them
- I do not think this is enough of an increase noting the burden of spend is in adult social care and demand for the service is rising.
- There is an estimated increase in funding from Government for adult social care, which the council intends to 'set aside'. This Government funding should be used to improve adult social care provision for the increased demand rather than through local taxation.
- As something that doesn't affect me at the moment it is not something I have a strong view on. I tend to disagree as it seems like a lot to ask for from people not using adult social care.
- I don't believe the last increase in TC for adult social care ever all got to where it was intended?
- This is a legacy issue from the NCC days and should be funded from national funds.
- The only reason there needs to be a 2% increase in funding for adult social care is because of mismanagement of funds by the council in earlier years
- a solution need to be found for the root of the problem - these poor people really need help but working people cannot keep funding everything
- This should be funded centrally.
- Central government should bear a bigger proportion of these costs. Government have repeatedly promised a fundamental review of the link between Social Care and NHS buy have failed to resolve the funding crisis.
- Look at what the extra costs actually are, and from a realistic viewpoint as against the usual "corporate" eyes that tend not to use a smidgeon of common sense.
- Increase should come from increase in NI
- I don't think this is the time to heap additional costs on the average resident and this increase should be postponed until inflation and other financial pressures have stabilised
- While I understand that social care is essential and expensive I just don't think people can afford to pay this increase.
- It would help more people . Perhaps higher charges for some care should be looked at . Some individuals packages are so high and it is not fair and equal.
- need to consider that rates is one of largest bills paid by many households - should aim to minimise increase
- The huge bills already are making things dire
- People already pay enough without further funding council ineptitude and waste.
- Not everyone is able to get cost of living help from government. We both work and have 2 kids. We don't get benefits still we won't be able to provide extra money you require from us from where? Salaries are not increased

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- It was increased last year to improve adult social care and the quality of care still decreased. Money is not being used effectively.
- My wages haven't gone up by 2 per cent
- Same as above
- Make the government pay
- See previous answer
- You have been asking this question for a number of years now.....what is happening to the money supposedly ring fenced for this?
- As before
- More detailed information of what exactly is involved in " Adult social care" is needed
- My challenge is the same as given above. By increasing costs will the council be taking critically important money away from those who are not currently using certain council services, but they then can't afford to heat their homes, pay their rent, buy food. What then happens to the increased demand?
- Services should be tailored to available budget
- We need access to health care for all. There are not dentists and oversubscribed doctors
- Every people is bankrupt
- Council wastes too much money generally across the board especially on fat cat salaries
- Because I tried to get help for my elderly parents and got no where. May be if the council hadn't shut the care homes they ran themselves instead of paying money to private companies there would be more money for adult social care
- I disagree with proposed increase to fund Adult Social Care . While I agree with universal taxation for the benefit of ALL in community I do object to being asked to pay additional taxation to fund a service that I most probably will NEVER qualify for due to my financial situation. Central Govt should be providing LA with the funding needed - as they appear to promise every day on national media - esp as the underfunding of LA has been steadily eroded by the current govt over the past 13 years .
- Many families are already suffering financially ,
- Because of the closures to elderly persons residential homes two in Daventry over a couple of years
- This was done last year, stop the market square revamp and use that money where it is needed more. Cut back on high paying staff and put that money to use.
- As above. This puts nearly £100 on families bills. Some families incomes haven't gone up as much. Get more money from government and use some of the NHS money to help pay for social care. We pay enough!
- We cannot keep pouring money into a broken system. We need to change the way the service is delivered if it continues to require additional funding every year and never stops.
- Is this money being used effectively? As a previous SNC resident, I feel like I am now being penalised for the merger with a badly run Council previously.
- It is an inadequate amount and won't result in any improvement. Services will still deteriorate despite the additional charge.
- Although I feel more money should go towards Adult social care this should be taken from other areas and not an increase to council tax payers in current financial climate
- Why am I funding this please?

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- What do adult social care do for us residents especially those who do not have anyone with needs for social care
- It's for you to manage the budget more efficiently and apply for grants if that's not enough. You keep increasing the council tax quite significantly every year. We are not money machines
- There was a significant increase for this last year
- Again poor level of service already received
- Paid an extra amount for this last year why more again
- Good sentiment but government should pay!
- This is not something that is accessed by all residents. A large number of residents are hard-working members of the community without any eligibility or need to access social care.
- social care should be provided by increasing death tax, not protecting the inheritance of the rich on the backs of general population
- I think the wnc already has sufficient reserves to cover this issue.
- Because it see s that no maintenance work is effected in the town .Not even the streets are free of litter . It is becoming a dirty town. Surely it should be the jewel in the crown.When all is said and done it's the county town !!
- Costs are already increasing for statutory services, costs for optional services should be bourne by increased fine fees, alongside optional fee increases such as parking and building applications.
- Not the right time ..with everything `` going up ``
- The money won't go on social care. It's means tested and unfair.
- Nats increase got cut but your still bringing it in by the back door....
- as above
- Adult social care shouldn't be a local funded provision dependent upon priorities within regional boundaries. It should, instead, be a national priority and managed/funded centrally and applied consistently across each individual nation in the union appropriate to the national demand/need.
- We have my [relative's] 95 year old [relative] living with us, slowly losing the plot. Nobody from the council has contacted us to see if we need help and social care doesn't seem to exist, so I object to just pouring money down the drain.
- I think it would be a good idea if we weren't in a cost of living crisis. At the moment i feel too many people will be impacted negatively, I.e not able to pay their bills with now everything has been increased.
- You get enough money from the government. Start being more efficient
- Mot beneficial to.yhe majority and you sell these people's houses to.pay for care so why should we also.pay
- Given the consistent above inflation increases in the last years, and the current cost of living crisis for all WNC tax payers an increase would be unaffordable for many, and would cause additional difficulties for tax-payers.
- While you may help social care for the elderly, families can still help them however who will help the younger vulnerable families? I am working full time but as in early 50s, parents dont work and unable to help me and employee not putting salaries up and expected to shrive on £24k a year with ridiculous high rents. Can you freeze rents ?
- The government has enough money to put into social care, if they put it out of their back pockets.
- Adult social care is not an area that should have additional funds allocated.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- See above no matter how much you increase people's payment adult social care fails to improve and is not fit for purpose
- The extra money will get swallowed up by private care home owners and not go where it's needed.
- We're getting no more for our service! Your staff have all had a £1500 pay increase while residents are struggling to make ends meet! You've already taken away services such as garden waste, there are little facilities for families or young generations to use! There is little no no bus services the road are in a disgusting state and the residents are already struggling to make ends meet with the cost of living issues and bills rocketing!
- As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
- People cannot afford this rise, end of.
- Millions in reserves. Use them
- same as above
- As above
- Social care uplifts aren't reflected in the current situation. You need to solve the issue through organising the services in a more functional way
- This could easily be 10\% and still not have an impact due to many years of fiscal ineptitude by the council
- Adult social care is in such dire straits even this amount will not resolve the problem. It is a sticking plaster. Wide reform is needed to change the system.
- Cost
- As above
- Our council tax is already higher than anyone's I know, another hike in price amongst mortgage increases, food prices, electricity and gas, home insurance increases, petrol, car insurance, I genuinely don't think I can take another increase in yet another service and bill it will cripple my family and would likely have to sell our house.
- The Council should start by making changes to the scope of service and service levels offered, and by making efficiency savings
- People have other expenses they need to pay at the current time
- See previous. Focus more on reducing waste.
- Would only agree if there are care facilities near county border near Banbury south of Northants as there is nothing and you expect people to be put into care homes the other side of Northampton.....cruel to a family who can't get there
- Many other services are not being provided. There are massive priorities on top of adult social care that you need to be looking at. All
- This additional funding for adult social care when the district is decaying isn't right
- as per my above comment
- There is no visible evidence that things have improved since this part of the council tax was introduced, it's throwing good money after bad
- Should be funded by central government!
- This should be Central Government funded
- Welfare (and care) begins at home. Take the [description] families who have emigrated to the UK and, the majority, will always take great care of their own families.
- If central government and this conservative administration hadn't cut services to the bone, and properly paid staff, you wouldn't have to ask residents to



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- further fund. Taxpayers money is misused by this government and this bankrupt (same people as before) council
- Use the existing precept to EDUCATE this group and stop wasting money on some who do not really need it, but will take it if it is available.
  - You adult care service need an overhaul they are ineffective, costly and mismanaged
  - I don't believe there will be any guarantee this will be didn't on adult social care
  - Again you are asking more for a failing service
  - The council need to manage their budget better
  - I feel the government needs to step in
  - I think we all would like to help those in need, however where do we the public draw the line and look after ourselves and our family
  - As above - want to agree but history tells us that costs increase but services don't
  - No justification provided.
  - I dont understand why the strategy is for social care both locally and nationally, when this is clear maybe an increase can be considered
  - As a [description] I genuinely think the government should think about compensation for us and I can't afford any increase in any bills.
  - We have been paying this separately for years and yet the service is still disjointed and poor. Where is the accountability or is this just another way of getting money in for one thing and spending it on another?
  - Why do you need to constantly take money from the people of Northampton when a lot are on the breadline and can't afford to buy food and fuel, yet you increase your pay, charge for any service you can then have the damn cheek to want to put the council tax up. We have been sold down the river by all these houses that's been squashed into these once beautiful villages. The only people who benefit are you and the contractors.
  - The politicians need to make a better case with Westminster to get more direct funding from them, not residents
  - Has anyone done an audit on how much the council spends on Adult social care ?
  - Please see previous remarks
  - Adult social care dont really support the vulnerable adults
  - A lot of private company's already make considerable profits
  - Why should they get more
  - This is less of an increase I still don't know how anyone could afford an increase when we don't see improvements in local services??
  - Your current provision is dismal. You can only claim a lack of funding so far, when actually you ought to be looking at efficiency
  - Again it's just unaffordable
  - We already pay too much tax so tye government should fund this rise.
  - It's too expensive already
  - Those who need social care aren't properly getting it, but they have to pay their council tax
  - My personal view is that this should be dealt with at national level with a reallocation of existing budgets
  - Total mismanagement. There should be enough funds in your reserves to support adult social care without demanding more from your residents
  - Saving money should be objective but you don't treat that seriously.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Work smarter, stop wasting time and money and do your job
- you dont need to increase our tax, you need to manage your assets better and create something unique in northampton to get the residents back into the town center to fill the shops, and business to fill the warehouses and commercial units. northampton used to be convenient due to its location - now its a ghost town full of charity shops, coffee shops and not much else. even new look is leaving!
- Funding for adult social care should be found centrally
- I don't care about social care
- There is plenty of money available if used wisely and not wasted by an inept council.
- People should pay for social care themselves, it appears that [description] all your life you get everything free but if you save you are penanlised
- I work in social care, it have never improved and we've had that argument before about increasing council tax to pay for improvements, t don't happen!!! Pay the care staff a decent wage
- There are so many peoplypayinv for care now including the baby boom you should already be in profit and it's greed taking over.
- What's 2% actually going to achieve?
- Your adult social care is a disgrace
- The cost of living is at an all time high so to have to find extra money to pay council tax right now would not be good news. We are already paying over £200 per month. I think it would be better to reduce waste within the organisation.
- Social care shouldn't be for free People that receive social care and are able to work should be doing some kind of work for the money they get, work like litter picking
- Council Tax Payers should not be paying for this service.
- Youve already had a designated increase where did that go ??? Residents cannot keeping propping the system up think again !

Don't know

No responses

Not answered

No responses

**7. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be avoided:**

There were 168 responses to this question.

Negative impacts and mitigations

- The only way this increase would work is to use the extra funding to ensure fair salaries to health and social care workers. Health and social care jobs are

## Negative impacts and mitigations

usually the lowest paid. higher salary would mean better recruitment and retention which in the long run would support the sector.

- as above
- As above
- Driving more residents into our already stretched services where they would normally not be needed to come to. This means the money being "raised" by upping the Council tax is actually being spent on those being pushed into our services because of WNC and no additional monies is raised.
- I would need adult social care if council tax was increased further - my mental health is poor but I have to work to earn and have very little spare once childcare and council tax paid, just enough for food, partner pays bills and for car. To be squeezed even more would destroy us - just to fund benefits because people are allowed to be lazy and not work because they do not like the jobs there. Adult social care needs a rehaul and streamlining as it was fine in our area before we became a unitary.
- More debt for some
- Unfortunately since Covid the majority of people are only interested in what affects them and their immediate family. Regardless of the statutory requirements towards Adults and Children's Services because the problems are constantly being covered by the media the message has now become diluted and seen as a continuous problem that has been historically mis-managed and still does not appear to have been resolved.
- mental health
- See above. I do not know enough about WNC to suggest how to avoid any potential negative impacts. WNC was sold to us as being more cost effective yet all you have done since you started was increase our (old SNC) taxes by far more than inflation taking account of things WNC charge us for that SNC did not e.g. green waste.
- see above.
- If the service provision will be reduced, the precept should be increased further to cover this.
- People, even those employed are struggling massively. Food banks are seeing record numbers. Agree Adult and Children's Social Services need funding, but how does it assist those that don't access these services - when taking a look at percentages of population sizes, there is a vast difference, it is reasonable.
- School transport? Focusing on this? But bus services are being cut left, right and centre. Are we to assume that cutting many people off from accessing work, or ability to get around. This feels like someone is winning financially - and it's NOT the public
- No money available to pay this significant liability
- Start up a lottery
- Better auditing and accountability.
- People who have worked jolly hard all their lives and not wealthy are subsidizing others. Much better to have a social fund so we all help these people and far more transparent
- As above.
- As above, council tax already causes great financial difficulties to many, however priorities must be set. It is fair that the higher band properties pay proportionally more, they can afford the costs better than the poorer households.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- It will have a negative impact on taxpayers who are already struggling with the cost of living. Many people live in a family house but cannot afford the ridiculous council tax. There is no allowance for affordability or ability to pay
- It will on the most needy families. Maybe they could be exempt? It will add to the problems outlined in the previous section re debt collection and family poverty.
- Stop wasting our money and make rich people pay, thousands of us can't sleep at night worrying how we can afford to live !
- More people will suffer mental health problems, poverty and homelessness and therefore demand will rise.
- Any increase would have a negative impact. To avoid it, keep the rate of council tax as it is.
- I'd stop paying for this service if it wasn't mandatory, poor value for money
- See above
- As a single working parent I earn too much for council tax support and am already struggling to manage. Any increase will be hard to bare.
- Perhaps you could keep this in mind when people are struggling to pay and work with people rather than sending to debt collectors to add fees on and add more stress and pressure to people!
- Refer to previous answers
- Get rid of the jobs worth over paid Police Commissioner.
- Struggling with bills already
- Working people are not getting their monies worth from this council.
- See above.
- As above
- I trust the council recommendations
- Adult social care spending should not go into a downward spiral due to the cost of living crisis, I would like to see more effort done to provide work for all which in turn will drive more tax revenue
- As before, adversely affects household budget and unable to earn more to counteract this.
- You should be cutting services not constantly increasing taxes.
- It's not enough
- Residents will be unable to pay increased costs.
- Obviously this will have a negative impact as people unable to access benefits won't be able to pay and will be stressed out worrying about not being able to pay this increase when they have food, mortgages or rent and utility bills to pay.
- only negative against cost of living rises so no avoidance
- Use the money to tackle the fundamental issues not to pay administrators to push papers around a desk or consultants to charge you a fortune to tell you the system is broken
- As above
- No comment I've already told you asylum seeker's stop put them up In hotels, those that's are in council houses get free help with maintenance why I don't get any help with maintaining my house free house free rent free maintenance should move into a council house free school meals here you go save money easy all the time we don't have money oh yeah I know let's rise council tax smart idea
- Any more increases will have a negative impact.
- As above.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- People who are borderline into tax credits will really struggle to pay. Also do not forget that many disabled customers have not yet moved over from pip to tax credits
- As I get older and might need these services, I worry about how I'll afford them. This is damaging my mental health.
- As above
- We the residents are not income rich like your default managers , and over staffing for higher team budgets should be scrapped and funds divereted to help the care sector.
- It's already difficult making ends meet and the increase would add to an already difficult situation financially for most residents. Many elderly residents and families are struggling to provide clothing heating and food and an increase in the bills would make these costs even more difficult to meet.
- We already pay a lot in council tax and services have been reduced, like waste collections etc..other towns and cities have better council services, people want value for money!
- Increase in people struggling to pay CT
- As above
- Hard on low income families, where is there help?
- As mentioned in your survey, these are financially intensely challenging times! Every penny counts and yet again, it's the middle earners who have to pay for EVERYTHING! NO, NO and NO. Perhaps you should start scrapping taxi services for children who don't live next door to a school bus stop. It is THE PARENTS' responsibility to see these children to school or, alternatively, to the nearest bus stop.
- Assess "Value for Money"
- Inflation has meant that the cost of living has risen for many residents, and although an increase in taxes is to be expected any increase should be minimised.
- The more that local residents are taxed by the council, the less money that can be spent on consumer goods and services in the local area and there will be restrictions on growth within the local West Northants economy.
- You need to be training people and bring people in an actually wage not agency staff who don't give a damn. That's not what mental health services are meant to be for, and not paying agency actually put the money to good use.
- As stated above already. People are already struggling. Our food bill is £150 every single week. Our gas and electricity bill is over £500 a month. We can't afford to find these changes. There are better ways to raise the money.
- make sure that all high care packages are right for the person
- make sure that we have innovative practices regarding care in the communities
- focusing in the rural areas as due to the geography, the deployment of the care is optimised.
- see previous
- And as the 2% is ring fenced, WNC should be able to show how it is used clearly.
- Affecting our mental health we cant cope financially and to add an increase will able worse
- As above.
- Same response as above.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- You have insufficient staff in adult social care to support hospital discharge. Would the 2% increase help?
- As above increased prices are unacceptable in this climate
- Social care is government funded individuals using the service should pay more as often they get additional support monies. the people targeted by these increases usually do not get additional funds hence to pay more results in them having less money for their own needs
- Managers pay should be on what they deliver, so they should all be getting pay cuts
- As above
- Again, the obvious negative impact is the additional pressure on household bills during a time of increased economic uncertainty.
- need to consider that rates is one of largest bills paid by many households - should aim to minimise increase
- Difficult to go food shopping for my family with such increases in bills
- Please invest in growth and invite big companies to set up in county, big sports or dance events and earn money from them .
- Same as above
- People will refuse to pay council tax if it keeps increasing.
- As my wages haven't gone up by even 1 per cent I would have less to live on
- The negative effect would be for people on fixed incomes, being able to afford to pay more council tax
- Still below the rate of inflation which is not sustainable
- Obviously it will have a negative impact on the household finances - and is extremely bad timing as the majority of UK residents are stretched to the limit
- The negative impact will be as mentioned before.
- The council needs to look at other opportunities for revenue generation or cost reduction - head count, office costs, etc.
- I will have to further cut back on food and energy/fuel spend at home. In this situation we all have to cut back and that includes WNC.
- Services should be tailored to maintain budget and services shared with adjacent authorities
- No increase please
- Why pay more for a service that is clearly over looked. Sheltered accommodation lost all resident wardens due to housing being off loaded to a housing association. Why would anyone consider a rise will in any way have an impact on adult social care
- More struggles
- As above
- The negative impact would be that I would have to take food from my children's mouths to pay the extra. My suggestion to avoid this impact is to ask [name] or the central government that caused this level of inflation to foot the bill for the excess that otherwise wouldn't have been required if they hadn't decided to experiment with the UK's economy?
- I have no confidence the the social care money is ring fenced
- Clearly it will have a negative impact on those struggling financially and will have a negative impact on the view of WNC
- Your contacted providers will increase their charges beyond the increase in council tax resulting in services being cut.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- People are going to community centres to warm up as they can't afford to heat their homes. The use of food banks is a lot higher. People simply cannot afford to pay more council tax
- Don't increase my payments
- The negative would be the impact on households but I cannot see how this can be avoided.
- The negative effect would be for people on fixed incomes, being able to afford to pay more council tax
- As above.
- Also the £250 hardship fund you have for people is a good idea to an extent. I am guessing this comes from a different pot so can be used like that where as the council tax being reduced isn't as feasible due to the ring fencing of that money?
- I think if there are ways to just reduce the council tax to begin with for those in hardship, this would get a more positive response generally from people.
- Even people earning good wages are struggling right now, and that is frightening. So timing wise I am concerned about public response.
- Are other local authorities across the UK doing the same?
- why should I pay for care home fees to protect the inheritance of others? I liked [name] proposal for increasing inheritance tax to pay for it
- We are having to pay too much already. This is a central government issue and not a local one.
- It would detract out of town visitors impacting the wealth and prosperity of Northampton.
- Think ..wait for a stronger economy ...if ever !!!!
- Automatically assess people for continuing health care. Most don't know about it.
- I do t have any money left
- Why don't you look at paying your ceo less money than the prime minister
- as above
- Too many things are going up in price, fear too many people will not be able to afford the increase.
- More money we have to find
- As above
- Lower the price of things, don't increase parking charges
- Council Tax remains a non-progressive tax with property value and not income or assets being the primary basis. As such an increase of 4.99% will cause significant difficulties to tax payers as stated above.
- If the council believes that this is justified, then it should be placed at 5.00% and sent to full local referendum.
- The increase would put yet more pressure on household incomes and should be proportional to ability to pay
- As above.
- Stop wasting money on translation services . [...]
- You are driving more people onto poverty meaning this will negatively impact their mental health and put further strain on services that are all ready unfit for purpose and do not do what they should
- We're getting no more for our service! Your staff have all had a £1500 pay increase while residents are struggling to make ends meet! You've already taken away services such as garden waste, there are little facilities for families or young generations to use! There is little no no bus services the roads are in a

## Negative impacts and mitigations

disgusting state and the residents are already struggling to make ends meet with the cost of living issues and bills rocketing!

- As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
- As before.
- same as above
- As above
- The only negative impact is that it just enshrines the existing inefficient way of working. Need to break the mould
- Again takes away people's ability to cope and will add to the social care issues
- The negative impact is if it's swallowed up in general funds and not used for what its intended for.
- The NHS and social care need complete reform. This means new funding models and administration. This needs central government focus.
- Cant afford
- Our council tax is already higher than anyone's I know, another hike in price amongst mortgage increases, food prices, electricity and gas, home insurance increases, petrol, car insurance, I genuinely don't think I can take another increase in yet another service and bill it will cripple my family and would likely have to sell our house.
- As above.
- It is unaffordable for many people
- The Council should start by making changes to the scope of service and service levels offered, and by making efficiency savings
- Other money issue for people to worry about and pressure for a 2% increase would not help people
- See previous answer
- Budget needs to be allocated to many different areas that are all being neglected in favour of adult social care
- financial implications to every household
- As above.
- As above
- Our household income is not increasing in line with inflation or anything else !
- Again, the hardest hit financially will 'only' be the struggling working families.
- N/A
- Stop funding your mates and fund the working public properly
- Financial hardship
- No increase
- All the increases in parking and council tax since I have owned my property in Northampton and the place streets are still filthy with crime increasing year on year where does all the money from the increases go ? The town centre gets more and more dilapidated sine I purchased my property in 2015 why with all the increases over the last 7/8 years ?
- Please see above
- Again - people are already struggling with the increased cost of living
- Need to keep services running but increased costs are going to make it difficult for many people due to inceased costs everywhere else.
- Like I said. Locals have had enough.
- Same as before, you are taking money out of the local economy
- Any increase is a negative step
- Let's see the accounts.



## Negative impacts and mitigations

- I think it is important to enter dialogue with central government about the long-term settlement for providing social care as I believe that raising it primarily through Council Tax will not be sustainable, and likely will need to come from general taxation. Without significant investment in adult social care we will continue to see extreme pressure on the NHS which will prevent it doing its job.
- Of course it going to have a negative impact people are struggling you know that but you continue to charge for this charge for that. All the extra revenue you get from all these new houses you can't tell me you are struggling, if you are then I'd be looking at all your employees and the gross pensions they get at an early age. This is why you have no money you spend it all on yourselves. rises, pensions early retirement. People are sick to death of the council. if Zi had my way I'd abolish it and start a fresh with all new people.
- The council needs to be more open about its spending
- Doing as I have mentioned above would avoid extra burden on council tax payments at a time when the economy is suffering.
- Please see previous remarks
- See above
- There is never enough social care. Also given that we are on the worse living crisis we've seen for years, the more money you squeeze out of people now; the more likely people will need to fall upon your social services
- The elderly aren't getting their pension properly
- As previous
- All price increases at this time will be hard for most people but the money has to come from somewhere.
- Just doubles the burden on households already struggling
- All increases at the moment would be negative as people haven't got the money except the well off Joe average is struggling as it is with utilities and everything increasing except their income
- Try finding savings.
- Of course it will have a negative impact. People are really struggling and food prices are still increasing every week at an alarming rate.
- Let's hope we have a change in government soon and we start getting the funding we need to run our services safely.
- as mentioned previously
- See above!
- As above
- Social care should be paid for by direct taxation
- It doesn't go into social care, it's an excuse for a bonus for the bosses
- Same as above we just do not have the extra cash and paid above and beyond 2 years ago.
- This is extra money a lot of people are going to need to find. It feels harsh to charge people more during a cost of living crisis. It will add additional hardship to people.
- People are struggling already to pay bills an increase would lead to more default payments.
- No
- Increased costs to households during a cost of living crisis
- Cant afford it

## Fees and charges for discretionary services

Income from fees and charges represents an important source of funds to the Council and enables a range of services to be provided within the area and beyond.

West Northamptonshire's Draft Budget generates Fees and Charges income in the region of £22.3m.

The Council offers a number of discretionary services, where residents can choose if they wish to use the service such as garden waste collection, bulky waste collection, and car parking.

It is good practice each year to review, and where appropriate, increase fees and charges to cover any increasing cost of service provision. If Fees and Charges are not increased, it is likely that service cuts would need to be made to critical front lines services to balance the budget. Fees and Charges are levied where residents and businesses have a choice about whether they wish to have a service provided to them or not.

Due to the pressure on essential services, and the need to protect funding so that the ever-increasing demand can be met, the Council is proposing to maximise income from certain discretionary fees and charges such as the above where residents and business have a choice about whether they wish to take that service or not.

For further details please see the proposed 2023/24 Fees and Charges schedule (Appendix C).

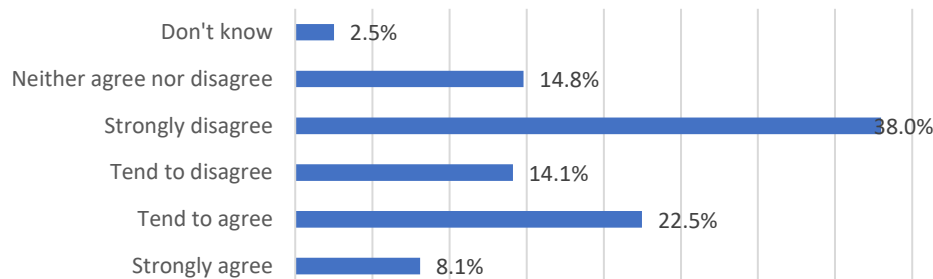
Details of the Council's current fees and charges are available on our website <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/finance/fees-and-charges>.

### **8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to maximise the income from certain discretionary services in order to support essential services?**

There were 717 responses to this question.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Per cent (%)</b>
Strongly agree	59	8.1%
Tend to agree	161	22.5%
Tend to disagree	101	14.1%
Strongly disagree	272	38.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	106	14.8%
Don't know	18	2.5%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to maximise the income from certain discretionary services in order to support essential services?



**9. If you have any comments to make on these proposals, please give us your views below:**

There were 733 responses to this question.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Green Bin charge	This will lead to more flytipping and bonfires.
Parking/garden waste	Parking charges are already inconsistent across West Northants, increasing the charges in Northampton town centre is ridiculous, the charges are already far too high, which is evidenced by the lack of use of the town centre. Similarly, garden waste is already high enough - I pay for this service but use it about 8 times a year
garden waste collection	Is basically just another council tax rise. There is no value for money, its not as if we are paying for a better service or more regular collections, its just paying for what we used to have for free. Why not ask residents to book a garden waste collection and pay at the point of booking. Some weeks no collection is required, so we are paying for absolutely nothing. In no other area of life , do you pay for a service you don't actually receive for at least 4/5 months.
car parking charges	Residents would rather travel to surrounding areas where there are better parking facilities that are also free, eg Wellingborough etc
Service charges	Why Council cannot take the ownership of all service charges on the developments and communal areas instead allowing private companies to overcharge residents for their poor services. Local residences could be hired to clean their own developments and earn some extra money. Why council is signing section legal agreement for the new developments that the council cannot look after communal areas?
Garden waste	Odd % increase - why not a simple £1 w eek? Ps sadly disappointed that the good to haves of being non- unitary are being eroded for ex South Northants residents. Also note proposal to reduce waste collections to 'match' another

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	ex non-unitary authority. Bringing services down rather than levelling up.
All fees and charges	Why should a local authority be any different to a private business. If costs for providing a service increase, they have to be met. The days of being able to find money from elsewhere, reserves or efficiency savings have long gone. If someone requires a service, they should pay the costs.
Car parking	More could be done to encourage people to access town centres using sustainable means. Residents tend to think that more cars in the town centre is a good thing when this is obviously not the case. How can we make the town centre a nice place to be and pedestrian friendly
all	<p>garden waste should be part of 'waste' collection. appalling this has suddenly become something separate when is is a recyclable source. a charge should be in place for black waste for landfill if anything!!</p> <p>change for park is ok within reason and only if it is going to the council -NOT OUT SOURCED to a private company who charge the earth and do not give money back.</p> <p>bulky waste and commercial waste collections charges can be increased - it is currently very reasonable and with the cost of fuel and labour these are easily negotiable for working and benefit residents (this area seem to get new large items an awful lot in my area!!) - elderly on pensions should have a discount.</p>
Garden Waste and bulky waste collection	Increasing the cost of these services risks increasing amounts of flytipping which is already quite prominent in parts of Northampton
Car parking	If you want to kill off what remains of the high street then put it up again. It just encourages online shopping, out of town or milton Keynes
Increase on garden waste collection	As long as the service is not meddled with during the term or payment ie. suspension of service during other high volume collection periods or strike action etc. if the service is paid for, it should be continuous regardless.
Green bins	I don't see why we keep having to level down to other areas service provision when we pay more in council tax, feel like we are constantly being asked to pay more for less
Green bin emptying and car parking	The emptying of the green bin is not a discretionary service. I know of many people who either simply haven't paid the charge and either dumped their green waste, put it in someone elses bin or put it in their black bin. Car parking is difficult, but when we are trying to encourage people back into out town centres, to support our local businesses, free car parking, for at least a limited amount of time, is beneficial. Many of the parking machines don't have card payment options or a pay by phone option. And like most people nowadays, I don't carry any cash, so it can be a real issue.
	Any reduction in waste collections means that even more fly-tipping will take place, mostly in the rural areas.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	Similarly, any increase in car parking charges will hit rural communities most where we have poor public transport services and have to use a car.
Green Waste	As a resident of old SNC last year you instigated a charge of £42 in addition to paying Council Tax whereas before we only paid Council Tax. Now you propose a 31% increase on top of that, so from £0 to £55 in two years. Not acceptable, the cost of going unitary for SNC residents is above inflation increases for less services and less control by a Northampton Town centric council.
garden waste	While this is a reasonable charge, it may well be out of reach for some families. Will the funding generated be used to pay for additional enforcement required?
Domestic garden waste	The current charge is high enough for limited size of bins. All you will do is encourage more illegal bonfires causing air pollution and increase in fly tipping.
Waste charges	You are discouraging people from recycling garden waste. It will be taken away for free if put in a general refuse bin. The increase in bulky waste collection charge will lead to an increase in fly-tipping. If this was done for a free or minimal charge then fly-tipping would reduce and would save costs overall.
Car park charges	The town centre is dying and should expect more support from the council. Increasing car parking charges will dissuade people from visiting the town centre and so it is not likely to generate the level of income you expect as fewer people will be willing to pay the charges. Nearby towns have good shops and without exception they are all cheaper than Northampton, which amongst the most expensive even though it has relatively little to offer. This is a short-sighted policy that will only increase the problem in the long-term
Car parking	People are already dissuaded from going into the town centre. Putting car parking charges up will put them off more and they will go to Weston Favell or Rushden Lakes where parking is free or Milton Keynes where there are more and better shops.
Garden Waste	It's another stealth tax and should form part of already utilised services
Car parking	Already seen the impact in towns of the current climate. Increasing car parking will just mean that businesses will struggle more and there will be no high streets left.
Garden waste	Pay enough already disgrace have to pay extra already Parking particularly country parks many young families don't have much money at the moment our counties lovely country parks can be a fairly cheap day out for them but the more the parking increases the less families can afford to do this. Many people have to drive to these parks so petrol costs then parking increases on top could make it unaffordable
	the council cannot be trusted that is where the extra money will be spent

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Car parking	If you increase this too much you will kill the town. I'm not going to pay excessive fees to shop in the area. I will go where there is free / cheaper parking.
	After Northampton council went bankrupt WNC was supposed to save money What excuse this time for poor management..Just look at Northampton town centre to see your success !
HMO	All are set to no increase yet you're increasing some of the marriage ceremony fees! Do it fairly to the normal person paying their way!
	I think 5% should be the max increase for any fees
	generally, this should all be covered from the sum we pay, not additional charges
Green Garden Waste	This charge is absolutely unnecessary, £55 for take green waste that is only collected in the summer months. Someone for the council needs to have a good look at the proposed increase as its another that is not justified just another for our poor councilors that won't be there in the next election.
Waste collection	Will indirectly lead to more waste lying around uncollected, inadvertently leading to health issues
Garden waste	Increasing the cost of this service is just another unjustified tax grab by WNC.
Increase on Garden waste subscription	- unacceptable, when this is only the second year on scheme to residents in the SNC area. If residents do not take part in this subscription this will encourage fly-tipping. You cannot add your waste to the Black bins either as this service is being cut to a three weekly collection.
Garden waste	I feel this is just a rip off of residents, I will not pay for garden waste and just put all the garden waste in the black bin.
Building Control New Dwellings & Green Waste Charges	The large increases in Building Control Fees for New Dwellings should reflect sustainability - big discounts for solar panels, EV charging & battery storage plus penalties for those without. Green Waste collection charges - 31% rise is a bad idea, this will encourage roadside dumping, we should encourage garden waste recycling not penalise it.
Household waste	Over a 20% hike seems unjustified particularly as I believe a large area of what was SNDC will now be paying which would be a huge increase in your revenue. A 10% increase whilst unwelcome would be more acceptable. For this who live in rural areas this is a key service.
Brown bin	We already pay for bins to be emptied. Why are we expected to pay twice? Lots of people will cancel their subscription so you will get in LESS money, not more.
Garden waste	Garden waste collection used to be provided as part of overall tax charge. Already costing a disgraceful add on of £42.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
All	It's a shame, but I don't see the Council has any option. It may increase levels of avoidance, which will cost the Council in chasing debt.
All	It seems only realistic to keep the charges in line with inflationary pressures, and they are , to an extent, optional. I would request and expect, however, that the council be able to advise me of alternatives available to me if I choose not to use the council-provided service. e.g. I can home compost garden waste or take it to a waste disposal point such as Sixfields if I choose not to use the 'Brown Bin' service
green waste and kerbside disposals	30% increase is outrageous and likely to increase the amount of fly tipping across the area
garden waste collection	Would say that, while I realise an increase is required this is too high. Please consider a lower amount, £48 would seem more realistic
Car parking, garden waste and bulky items	If car park charges are introduced or go up then this is even less of an incentive to go in to the town centre which is mainly made of of coffee shops and charity shops. Increasing garden waste and bulky item charges will just result in more fly tipping and more costs as I doubt the culprits get found let alone charged or fined
All paid for waste services	The charges for all these are extortionate already and only create more and more FLY TIPPING which then costs the Council thousands of pounds to clean up . These charges should be reduced or abolished !!!
Garden Waste Collection	We need to further encourage use. I don't like the phrase "maximise the income". We should be providing services.
	Just another way to charge us more for less
Car parking	Car parking should be free in Northampton at weekends to support shops
	Car parking; the town is terrible, unless you love drugs, litter, gambling and coffee. We should be supporting trying to get people to visit not continuing to drive them away. Further, pay by card, cash machine are outdated and no one carries cash anymore, this is a barrier to bring people in. Garden waste. Numerous people are unable to take their waste to a centre and either have to pay or if given such a large increase we shall see more disposal in the streets, and more rundown communities. A small increase yes, not so large. Bulky waste, people have several options on this now, I agree an increase to remain competitive with local companies who provide this service
Garden waste	What is wrong with keeping nature as nature and learning to chop and drop? Garden waste doesn't need to be hauled anywhere. It can sit and rot in the earth. A good chipper would do wonders to the health of the soil.
	In particular the planning related charges proposed increase is substantial but i doubt will have a huge impact on building

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	and those wishing to do so / make changes to existing property
Social services	Not doing what their supposed to do, money being wasted
Green bin collection	I don't see what extra value we will get for the increase in cost... why not take this charge in council tax for every individual house
Taxi licences	I don't understand large differences between geographic areas. Should these be harmonised?
Garden bins	The costs are just getting ridiculous and people won't pay and fly tipping may increase
Garden Waste Collection	£55 per annum to collect garden waste for 50% of the year is extortionate. This should seriously be reconsidered.
Green bin, car park, buses	Green bins increase ridiculous and will lead to more people cancelling service so lorry will have same route but less to collect hardly encouraging recycling. Car park increases when shops are closing down and market being shut. Supporting town centre businesses presumably you mean MK centre where parking is cheaper and they have more range. You don't want cars so let's increase bus fares. Baffling for those villages that actually have a bus service still.
Garden waste	I think this should not increase as the cost of living is having an impact if costs keep going up people will no longer use and rubbish will be dumped on roadsides which is already happening
Garden waste collection	Any council with any sense would collect this free of charge and make their own compost to sell on, good for the environment, make you money and reduce flytipping!
Green bin collection	Go green you say, but we'd like to rob you blinds in there process. Where does all the compost hi by the way??? We can't buy it so I assume you selling it. How much revenue does that generate???
Car parking charges	High parking costs reduce visits to town centre, causing failure of retail business and hospitality.
Garden waste	Please ensure you don't create a negative loop, whereby residual waste increases, or private car journeys to bring sites creates a significant increase in pollution. Better manage fly tipping, be prepared to crush illegal transporting vehicles.
Garden waste	It's going up by 35%. How can you justify that ??
Garden Waste Fees	A nearly 40% increase is completely unjustifiable and nearly four times the rate of inflation. This is again on top of previous rises above inflation for certain areas upon the formation of the unitary authority. A balance has to be struck but it is unfair and unjustifiable to increase by such a significant amount. Anything above 10% rises is not appropriate for households struggling with the increased cost of living. It is anticipated that such an increase will reduce the number of subscribers, with more using local tips at no cost to them and some dumping waste. All that will



Name of fee/charge	Comment
	lead to increased costs to the LA and reduce income which is counterproductive.
	Again, the council cannot be trusted to manage money.
Garden waste	This is not an optional service for us as we have a garden and rely on the green waste service. We object to paying extra especially as our standard council tax fee was not reduced to allow for this. There are many other services we are being charged for that we don't use so it seems very unfair.
Waste collection	We already pay more for less services. So you want even more money to provide even less services. Your only going to encourage fly tipping
Garden waste	This fee has only just been made in South Northants and to increase it again will stop more people using this service and generate more fly tipping. WNC make money out of recycling garden waste.
All fees and charges being considered for increase.	You are failing in your duties to deliver services. You simply look to extract more money from residents to subsidise poor management and decisions year after year. Raise car parking charges will see even fewer people visit and thus fewer businesses succeed thus reducing not only car park revenue but receipts from business tax. Likewise, the green bin tax. Most of my green waste comes from local authority trees. The proposed cost of a 31% rise is ridiculous but par for this hopeless council. You will do nothing here - likewise to for the planned changes on council recycling centres - for residents' benefit and will only increase littering and further exacerbate the epidemic in fly tipping. Northamptonshire is already a filthy litter strewn and fly-tipped County.
Garden waste	I pay almost £300 per week for my bins to be emptied. There is NO WAY I am paying extra for a brown bin, it will go in the grey one
Fixed Penalty Notices	Many of the service fees have increased for law abiding citizens. It therefore seems extremely unfair that Fixed Penalty Notices have remained the same. Of particular note is the ludicrously small penalty for Fly Tipping - £400 is not going to deter anyone from conducting this most disruptive and anti-social behaviour.
Garden Waste	When recycling it sell it on and make prices the same all over
Car parking - how can you charge for town centre parking when you've allowed and encouraged out of town retail development which offers free parking?	Bin charges - short sited response. Why not level down and make it free everywhere? Open tips more and daily. It will reduce flytipping and massive cost incurred in clean up fees.
Garden Waste	People have little choice of how to dispose of their garden waste. It's no coincidence that fly tipping has increased since charges were introduced to collect white good, for example. This impact has been felt since garden waste charges have

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>been introduced. It would be interesting to see how much revenue is lost in the clear up of fly tipping vs revenue made from charging in the first place.</p>
<p>Parking charge at racecourse</p>	<p>This is not something I could support. The mounts area for parking is already at breaking point and the pavilion car park at the racecourse is our last resort (I live on [name] street). It's already difficult to have to use this overnight, with a baby on the way I'm concerned how I could manage carrying my baby and for example shopping back to the house several streets away - and at night time when half the street lights are turned off. But the idea of now having to pay for that parking per hour and then overnight is just awful. I don't know how I would make it work. I urge the council to reconsider charging for local residents whose only option is to park here for sometimes days on end. If it's absolutely necessary, could a reduced rate for local residents be considered like £1 for 24 hours or something to make this affordable to those of us that aren't lucky enough to find a space on one of the side roads (which also aren't permit)</p>
<p>Charging for Parking at the Racecourse</p>	<p>This car-park is widely used by the surrounding community as parking spaces are already at a premium. We already suffer with anti-social and dangerous parking caused by over population of the area through HMO's. This would not be a positive move and is just another kick in the teeth to a community already struggling with capacity. Surely a focus on punishing fly-tipping in the area would generate far more than the anticipated £60k. This is very short sighted.</p>
<p>DHP</p>	<p>should be a limit resource. far too many people relying on this long term and HAs making a lot of applications and not thinking about downsizing under occupiers and looking at their own hardship funds. internally no joint working with those accessing uch with welfare bens team or housing. max time for dhp should be 6 months</p>
<p>Car parking</p>	<p>There is an obesity crisis. We want to encourage not discourage people from using local parks</p>
<p>Garden waste</p>	<p>This increase could encourage people to put garden waste in their black bins and lead to higher disposal costs</p>
	<p>We seem to paying more for less. Car parks arent maintained, the roads are a state, we are getting less and less bin collection and paying more for your fees and charges.</p>
<p>Car parking</p>	<p>You have already driven most of the trade away from the town centre to other places where parking is free, so by all means put prices up. Kill off the shops that are left.</p>
<p>MSCP car park charges</p>	<p>Should be free for at least 2 hours every day to encourage use of the town centre.</p>
	<p>Stop milking your residents for their hard earned cash, whilst providing lesser and highly inefficient services.</p>
<p>Green Bin Charges</p>	<p>Political taxation of the residents of south Northants</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
car parking town centre	The town centre does not entice people to it. Raising car parking charges here would further drive people towards Rushden Lakes where parking is free and there is more for people to do
Bulky collections and garden waste	Putting these fees up is just going to increase fly-tipping which is going to cost you more money in the long run
	Charges will be made for services used.
	The huge increase in green bin fees will increase fly tipping
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection Subscription (annual fee per bin)	Are you insane?! A 30% increase on the charge for a green bin at this time! It is almost as if you are trying to create fly tipping and a mess of a county and many people will choose instead not to maintain their gardens as no one will be able to afford an increase like this. There is no possible justification for such an enormous increase.
see comment below	<p>I tend to agree with some of the increases to these charges, however. Safeguarding Training should not have a raised cost or much cost at all as raising awareness should take priority.</p> <p>Services such as garden waste collection is already at a cost the most find annoying or difficult to cover and I feel this would have an adverse effect if the cost rises, less people will use the service.</p> <p>I think a rise in cost for bulky waste collection would be a terrible idea. There is already an issue with fly tipping and dumping in poorer areas. This would only increase the problem further and end up with less people trying to dispose of their waste properly and add to the mess in the streets.</p> <p>Car parking costs are already quite high for most people and if we want to encourage people to visit Northampton and boost the economy in businesses, people need to be able to park for a good price. If people see parking costs as too high, they will find a street as close as they can and fill up the side of the road.</p>
Garden waste collection	The garden waste fee has only just been introduced and now it is being increased. I also live next to a council owned property and their garden is horrific and impacts on my garden. I can't encourage the residents to tackle their garden if they haven't got a garden waste bin.
Garden waste collection	<p>I agree to some extent to an increase but not 30.95%. That to me will bring about an increase in people leaving garden waste where they shouldn't and then the inevitable result of the council having to collect it, which will result in costing more than the increase will bring in.</p> <p>Increasing it by 10 to 20% I think will give a better result in additional funds.</p>
	everything comes at a cost
Car parking fines	Vehicle tax where dose this money go don't tell me on our road's that's a lie have you seen the state of our road's where dose the money go for parking fines

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	The council needs to leverage its income streams from all sources and harmonise charges across the former authorities area. Discretionary services are, by definition not obligatory and we have to make tough decisions against a tough economic backdrop.
Car parking	My [relative] lives in a parking permit zone, we often witness the traffic wardens just strolling down the Strete not checking cars so what is this service paying for. Also with the increase in Hmos many who have large vans an increase for vans would probably be more beneficial than increasing prices for domestic cars
Garden Waste	If the local tip stay open this will help. There will more waste hanging around and more fly tipping. That costs more n the long run.
various	<p>a number of fees are going up by 10% and under the circumstances it is justified.</p> <p>A few remarks :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- why not double the penalties for fly tipping, dog fouling and all bad behaviours that have an impact on the council. Instead those have 0% increase.</li> <li>Regarding the taxi licences, could we harmonise for the whole of WNC.</li> <li>- There are not more fees for renting mobility scooters in Brixworth park. That is a welcome move. Could we go further and not charge parking fees for the Saturday Park Run or for GP prescribing. (people will have to put something on their dashboard to validate the dispensations.</li> <li>- for the fees regarding waste, we must encourage good behaviour and no increase should be made except if the service runs at a lost. All should be cost neutral.</li> <li>- review of school bus is essential and even if it is a difficult choice, if the methodology is fair, it is fine</li> </ul> <p>Finally, waste before any change, all options should be considered and i would like to see the feasibility study pro and con of a three weekly blanket collection in town</p>
proposed introduction of charges for Racecourse car park	<p>This car park is currently free. As a local resident I am extremely concerned that current users of the facility will try to park on the local streets instead if the charges are imposed.... as you will be well aware, the huge number of HiMOs in the area already put enormous pressure on street parking - residents often have to use the Racecourse car park overnight in order to park anywhere near their homes. If Racecourse park users seek to avoid the charges by looking for on-street parking the situation will become even worse.</p> <p>Currently, the car park is used as a drop-off/pick-up point for pupils from the Malcolm Arnold Schools ..... this may well stop if charges are introduced.</p> <p>The effect on local businesses could be negative too if their customers go elsewhere when faced with a choice of paying</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>for parking or driving round and round sidestreets looking for free parking spaces.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider this proposal .... I suspect that introducing charges for this car park will not generate the anticipated revenue but instead just add to the problems of local residents</p>
	<p>upping fees is just a backdoor way of overall funding, I have asked for deetails of what fees are going up and by how much, but no answer Why the reluctance to provide detail?</p>
Garden waste	<p>Once again the use of residents money for other purposes than those that we think we are paying for. Immoral</p>
Garden waste	<p>Maybe have a nominal amount for people to order a one week only garden collection on the normal waste day. Like you can ring up to order a bulk collection.</p>
Garden Waste	<p>Have you heard of Elasticity of Demand? It means that demand is very sensitive to price. For you, it means there's a great risk of higher drop in unit sales than rise in income. With fairly fixed costs (staff, vehicles, premises) then you'll see an overall drop in "profit" by putting the price up so high. For example, we've already agreed with our neighbour to share a brown bin next year, so you'll only receive £55 instead of <math>£42 \times 2 = £84</math>, but your marginal costs won't reduce. Have you really thought this through or do you assume that your monopoly position means that you can charge whatever you like and we're hostage to you? We most certainly are not. As with the introduction of the charge in the first place, you'll see even more fly tipping. You should be charging for landfill waste and not at all for green waste or recycling and lobbying for government funding and to retailers to improve the recyclability of packaging. Think big, green, and strategic, not like little town hall bean counters. You can do better than this.</p>
Several	<p>There are several charges which look to need review -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waste collections for trade - these lines have a sub 10% increase which when compared to the residential increases of 20-30%. This is a lost opportunity</li> <li>2. Miscellaneous Licenses - sun 10% increase looks very low</li> <li>3. Fixed penalty notices - this is a shock to see 0% increases for all fines! As a minimum these should increase inline with inflation.</li> <li>4. Gambling costs - these are some of the most profitable businesses! Taking money from those who have money to burn (well not in some cases). I strongly suggest that these costs are increased.</li> <li>5. Housing - there absolutely should be increases for license for HMOs - you can beat your uncle they are increasing rent to their tenants because they can. There should be increased costs to these individuals</li> <li>6. Learning sessions - whilst I'm sure these lines make up a small income over the year. Those buying these services have cash to spend, there should be a nominal increase here</li> </ol>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>7. Library fines - as per FPN comments, fines should be increasing</p> <p>8. Marriage license - again those getting married are choosing to, there should be an increase for these cost lines, I'm sure again making up a small amount of the budget but every bit helps protect the key services</p>
GARDEN WASTE	<p>We should get option for 2 seasons, one for summer and one for winter, and the present fees should be on hold for next financial year. If this fees are increased all the foreigners, migrants will start dumping , fly tipping at night in their streets or other areas , which is a common factor for some time.</p> <p>Take away businesses , resturants should pay 5 fold rise in their collection . Domestic collection should be frozen.</p>
Fixed penalty and gambling act	Noting these are not getting an increase. Both are negative to the community, why are they not subject to an increase?
Garden Waste	Terrible idea. I don't have children, so I don't want to pay for schools either. I'm not old so don't want to pay for adult social care. It is a money making scam. Charge more council tax and offer less services. Truly scandalous.
	help more people on benefits into work. Improve town centre ie shops, make Northamptonshire a safer place to go live and go out, Make Northamptonshire a cleaner place.
garden waste collection, bulky waste collection,	This should be free for people on benefits and low income. Many people cannot afford these services and encourages fly tipping, pests etc.
Northampton car parking	You say "It is good practice each year to review, and where appropriate, increase fees and charges". How can you go from free parking during the pandemic and run up to Christmas when you want to get people in town to increasing by 10% when you still need to try and get those people into town? Surely more visitors paying less to park (and spending in the amenities) is better than less visitors paying a bit more (and having less to spend in the amenities). The town is so uninviting, you should be doing more to get people into Northampton town.
Garden and bulky waste collection	In our opinion, making it harder for residents to dispose of their waste through increased costs will only result in increased fly-tipping. With the charges as they stand, the problem is significant, with residents and businesses not making appropriate use of the services already available - whether this is due to a lack of understanding, a lack of education, lack of money to pay for the services, laziness or a don't care attitude, is something the council would benefit from investigating. In his 2016 article, The Psychology of Littering, Lou Blouin states that, as a rule, the general public do not mind doing the right thing as long as it's not too disruptive to the way we live our lives. Increasing the costs to dispose of waste, especially in the current cost-of-living crisis, will give people another excuse as to why they fly-tip - they can't afford to use the services. But as a county, we

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	cannot afford the current situation and waste epidemic to continue. The Council must get a grip on the problem and increase its actions not reduce services and make it harder for residents.
Garden Waste & Three weekly collections	SNC area seem to be losing out everywhere. Had a 180L bin and now it is proposed that this is only emptied every 3 weeks - DDC area have 3 weekly collections but have a 240L as standard. GWS was only introduced last year in SNC and already adding this massive percentage increase. This is ridiculous.
Paying for Green Bins	Abhorrent in the first place...now leads to rural fly tipping.
Bulky waste charges	I note that these charges are being increased by double the rate of inflation. For some people these charges will be unaffordable, and will have the effective of providing a financial incentive to dispose of such items in an irresponsible manner. I.e: the net effect will be to encourage fly-tipping.
	As long as these services are reliably maintained, I do not object. Furthermore, I have a CHOICE whilst raising council tax by 4.99% makes me pay for others.
Green Waste	An increase of 31% in excessive. I have paid for this service since the charge was brought in but I will not pay £55 a year. People will just put their garden waste in their black bin or will fly tip now because the charge is too high. Most people don't put garden waste out from Oct / Nov to March / April so we are now going to be paying £55 for 6 months service in the summer. By increasing fees you are effectively putting people off using this service, meaning it will actually cost you more in the long run as less people will subscribe. If you actually reduced the price, more people would sign up and you would get more subscribers. You still have to send the lorry out for the same journey, even if only 1 person in each street subscribes.
Fees for the green bin collection	It has already been done but I never agreed with it. It was something that was originally given to us without a choice - we were no longer allowed to put garden waste in the black bin. The cost came from our council tax I'm sure. We got used to using it and saw that it was a good thing to recycle and suddenly we were told it is no longer 'free', basically again because we had to be brought down to the level of the councils we had joined.
Garden Waste Collection	I think the increase in this charge will result in more instances of fly tipping occurring in the rural environment as people will not pay the increase.
green bin	You can make money from composting and reselling green waste. There is no need to double charge us, most of us with gardens cannot avoid using a green bin, unless you want us to put all our garden waste into black bins, which will cost you more and you won't be able to get any revenue from selling compost that way.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Waste collection	It has to be good value for money, increased charges just lead to increased fly tipping, we are encouraged to dispose of waste and to have recycling uppermost in our minds, not the high level of charges that the councils now seem to seek to impose.
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection Subscription (annual fee per bin)	I am disappointed to see that there is a proposed increase of 30.95% given that the fixed penalty charges for those who do not responsibly dispose of their waste will not increase whatsoever.
Green waste bin charges.	I think it's outrageous to increase this fee by such a large amount. What rational is there for this? I think you'll just increase fly tipping from people who can't pay the increase. You're not encouraging recycling, quite the opposite.
Waste collection	This is optional so people can choose whether to pay or not
Garden and Waste collections	I feel that SNC worked perfectly well before becoming WNC. Why should we be made to pay for NBC shortcomings and poor decision making. All our waste collections were free and SNC was financially good.
Garden waste, parking and bulky waste	Garden waste, parking and bulky waste should have 'affordable' charges. Too expensive and it increases the risk of fly-tipping and antisocial parking.
Waste services	The proposals to increase charges will result in more fly tipping which will make the town even more scruffy than it is already.
Kerbside Green Waste Collection	30.95% increase to £55 is outrageous - what is the rationale for the increase?
Green bin (stealth tax), parking charges	<p>1.) Green bin tax has cause a reduction in the amounts of garden waste being recycled no only that it's is causing bad environmental factors. We are seeing and increasing amount of locals in areas taking up to uprooting whole lawns and shrubs and replacing them with, paving, concrete, tarmac. This is detrimental to the air quality and the environment for both animals such as birds, insects that tend to make and have homes on peoples gardens we seen people cutting down trees in their gardens due to not wanting to pay for garden waste as it's an additional cost on their already stretched pocket it now almost seen as a luxury to have green waste collected it's ridiculous plus there has been a heft increase increase in fly tipping all over Northampton this town is increasingly seeing to become more and more run down in area it's a shame residents are better off relocating to a county where the local council looks to make changes that benefit people without out addi f stealth levy in basic services such as Milton Keynes.</p> <p>2.) I understand the need to reduce free parking and charge visitor to the town center but the cost should be affordable as when you spending £8.4n to do yo marketing square you may push even more visitors away to neighboring areas this is counter productive but I do understand the need to charge Ibhust think keeping cost affordable</p>



Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>I am not confident that the Council is spending the current budget wisely/correctly.</p> <p>I cannot afford to pay more whilst it appears that the discretionary services remain unaffected.</p> <p>I also do not trust the Council that this money would not be going on inflated wages for the 'top dogs' whilst the rest of the staff struggle.</p>
	<p>Why don't mps and councillors for go their expenses and put that back in the pot instead of squeezing every penny out of us working people struggling to feed and heat our homes who don't get expenses and lavish homes paid for by us! When they do sk little for us.</p>
Garden waste	<p>Garden waste should not even have an extra charge. It's already paid for historically in our council tax. It certainly shouldn't go up. It will increase fly tipping or homes looking overgrown and uncared for. Or have a tiered payment system. Those who are heavy users pay more. Those who put it out once a month by half the charges.</p>
Garden Waste Collections	<p>Rise is not in line with inflation. We have gone from having a free service to charging £42 and this will now be increased</p>
Garden Waste Subscription	<p>The increase of the garden waste subscription will cause uproar in South Northants - the introduction of the fee last year was not received well and this will only encourage fly tipping or placing garden waste in the residual bin. There will be a decrease in uptake for the subscription which will be counterproductive and therefore not generate increased revenue. An increase of a couple of pounds is acceptable but an increase from £42 to £55 is too much and will further create a negative view of WNC.</p>
Garden Waste service	<p>The change was poorly handled in the area of communicating use of bins and the attempt to recover them (when those not on the scheme were probably full of waste - where did you think people would put this?).</p>
Green bins	<p>This is trickery, a stealth tax. I did not previously pay for garden waste removal and resent a further price increase. If you put the price up it will promote fly tipping. If costs are not being recovered reduce the service level</p>
Garden	<p>Initially garden waste was taken as part of the normal waste paid for through our council tax. Then we had to pay for it as you couldn't afford to collect it. It has gone up rapidly and now you want to maximise the cost for a service most people only use during the summer months. So no I think you are just money grabbing at a time the people you serve are at their lowest.</p>
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection Subscription (annual fee per bin)	<p>Both increasing the charge for this by 31% AND changing the frequency to 3 weekly is not acceptable.</p>
Green waste bin collections	<p>I think the increase to £55 is too much. It will result in more fly tipping</p>
Green Bins	<p>Increase in fee must not exceed 3%. Anything over that will result in me having to reduce essential household spending</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	such as food. Please remember you introduced this fee last year when before it was a part of my Council Tax. That was bad enough and caused real hardship. Any further addition in times such as these is just cruel.
	Again, there is a desperate cost of living crisis, please do not incur additional charges on the residents of WNC.
Parking fees especially for Brixworth Country Park	The fees are already too expensive (£3.40 to enjoy a short stroll and a coffee in the cafe?) and to increase the annual fee from £38 to £70 is just excessive. You are supposed to be encouraging people to enjoy these facilities and take exercise, not put them off with ridiculous charges!
Garden waste	Last week my garden waste bin wasn't collected. I never get a refund when it's not collected and you want to increase this to £55. I'm so angry with constant price increase and constant reduction in services
Country parks	
Garden waste fee.	The council make money from the garden waste so therefore it is in their interest to collect this for free. Plus additional bins should be free if you pay for 1 garden subscription
Fees for parking at parks/Green bin charges	I feel it is unreasonable to maximise income from this source - we are all being encouraged to exercise, and for the less well off, a park should be a cheap place to go. By charging so much, you are impeding the ability of the hardest pressed families to get healthy exercise and fun. Green bins - why are you increasing this so much, whilst not hiking up charges for fly tipping and extra black bins? It would be far more eco friendly to hike up charges for extra black bins and littered, whilst not maximising your income on Green waste from the law abiding people trying to recycle their waste responsibly
Garden waste	Raising the cost of this will cause more people to use their black bin or fly tip
Car parking	People just won't use the facilities and your income will drop.
Green bins	Very anti environmental, just use black bin instead
Parking fee at Northampton Racecourse	Having been instrumental in refurbishing the Basketball courts the council, quite rightly were insistent that they remained free and open for all to enjoy. We held the first NN3X3 tournament which was a huge success. If there is a charge for car parking the facility is no longer free to all. Also participants and volunteers on July 16th, the next NN3x3, will need to pay for all day parking. [...] will the collective voice of the Racecourse users be heard? It is the premier sport and exercise park in the town...Also it will mean more parking on the adjoining streets which is unfair on local residents.
Parking	Country park. Local walks are being covered in houses. Where are we supposed to exercise if parking fees go up?
Country Park parking fees	It's worth remembering that prior to the re-structure split of Northants County Council into North Northants and West Northants you could get one parking pass covering 5 country

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>parks for £51.50. Now you can get a pass for one named park for £38 with each of the councils. In my case, as Sywell is North and Brixworth is West that costs £76. £70 per park is just too much. Wasn't Northants council split in order to improve things like efficiency and effectiveness - or just to double everything up to rip off local residents..?</p>
<p>Parking charges at the Racecourse, Abington</p>	<p>Hood St. and it's surrounding streets, do not have a permit parking system - this means that anyone is allowed to park on these streets unrestricted... commercial vehicles/ visitors of the local area. Also, thanks to the council's decision to allow HMO after HMO into the area, this means there are more cars parked on these streets than there are property. Consequently, not only do residents have to worry about getting a space when they arrive back home from work/ social activities in the evenings, but residents also have to worry about finding an alternative place to park if they can't park on one of the surrounding streets with no permit parking. The only other accessible place to park, then becomes the Racecourse.</p> <p>Residents don't like to park at the racecourse - its dark, feels unsafe and I myself on occasions have seen people with phone lights looking into the exteriors of parked cars at night... but at the end of the day, we have no choice.</p> <p>By charging us residents to use the Racecourse, you will be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Affecting residents' mental health because people may want to cut down their social lives/ working hours to make sure they get a space back home</li> <li>2. Persuading people to park in other free but unsafe locations</li> <li>3. Making residents resort to parking illegally on double yellow lines/ roads so as they impede traffic flow.</li> </ol> <p>[...]Hood St. and its surrounding streets, that permit parking is made available for residents of these areas at the racecourse.</p>
<p>Enforce parking</p>	<p>Might leave some cash to fix the dreadful state of the county roads</p>
<p>Garden waste</p>	<p>This is a big increase in the price compared to the current price.</p>
<p>planning related fees</p>	<p>increases seem very high</p>
<p>Parking</p>	<p>I cannot see an increase in the car parking charges in the charges planned. I sincerely hope that NO increases are planned. As a business owner in Northampton town centre I strongly feel that town centre workers are having to pay WNC for the privilege of working in town if they drive in. I have to recruit staff who work late into the evening when public transport is both scarce and undesirable. Please consider those who enable the towns retail and evening</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	economy to survive. Without us there would be no reason to visit, (and pay for parking) at all.
	We already pay too much for a sun-standard service. Increases will only perpetuate the shocking way the council is run.
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection Subscription (annual fee per bin)	Increase of more than 30% seems excessive
Car parking pass	An unbelievable hike! I've always had the 5 park pass (for £51 last year). We now won't be able to access Brixworth cp. Bvw is still a free car park?!
Garden waste and fixed penalty notices	<p>If you up your garden waste management fees by 30% (above inflation), you'll find that people will just send it to landfill instead of composting.</p> <p>I'm astonished that fixed penalty notices haven't gone up a single penny - an extra waste bin goes up to nearly £100. If you only get caught fly tipping once every 3.5yrs, it's basically paid for itself. You're punishing people that want to do the right thing and popping 10% into the pockets of those that don't - if you even catch them.</p>
All	Your model is broken, your services are already poor and charming more to cover holes elsewhere in the budget will simply escalate the problem. Less people will pay for discretionary services and you will have a bigger hole in the budget because you have priced them too high. You still then rely on ever more enforcement fines to try to plug the gap. The council is bankrupt and needs to come clean and be honest. WNC is a false council with no local community identity or clear objectives.
Building Control discretionary fees and charges and Waste Services fees and charges	<p>As the planning department is currently unable to respond in reasonable timescales, will these fee increases result in an imposed service. Why are the increases largest for small dwellings when we are continually told we do not have enough social housing.</p> <p>Increase in green bin and item collection charges will increase fly tipping</p>
Brown Bins	I feel the fee we already pay has gone up enough over the last few years
All where 0% increase	Why not distribute the increase more evenly over all fees Some have a 0% increase and others are TBC, We should be increasing fees on those socially less acceptable and cause local nuisance to residents in the area eg gambling fixed penalties
Green Waste	My main objection is that the cost is going up - has this service increased in cost to deliver or are you adding 25% on the cost as a hidden tax to pay for other things? I lost out as a previous SNC resident where we used to have this free and a 25% on the 1st year is crazy! You will put people off the service and end up with more fly tipping - something you wish to decrease this year - so it is counter productive.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Parking	The more you increase these costs the more people will go elsewhere. Parking for example, free at Rushden Lakes and £1 in the MK John Lewis. And they have so much more to offer than Northampton.
Garden waste	Rip off
	Some of these increases are ridiculous. Who on earth is proposing them??
Car parking	I don't feel people should have to pay for parking/permits for their residences and feel there should be discretion used for parking at hospitals as it's extortionate and there will be some people that can't afford it but need to attend appointments or visit sick relatives.
Parking charges at country parks	No comment has been made re how Blue Badge holders will be treated
Car parking	There is public outcry on social media for these proposed increase in car parking fees it will kill the town which is already dying with too many charity shops, tattoo parlours, flats there really is nothing to attract the public to visit. Families will think twice about visiting the many country parks in the county. People will choose to travel further to areas that either have no fee or more reasonable charges taking any proposed income away from Northampton it will have a massive negative affect.
Green waste	Feel increase is excessive especially in old SNC who had charges for first time last year. Think £50 more appropriate.
Various	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many of the increases in charges are significantly in excess of the rate of inflation, the trend of which is downwards.</li> <li>2. Some of the 0% increases shown in the final column are misleading as they are new charges and/or are yet to be confirmed.</li> <li>3. Car parking charges for The Racecourse car park will have a significant and detrimental effect on the economy of local businesses, local residents who will find access to parking further restricted and the health and well being of residents using the area for exercise and sporting activities. There is no evidence to show any good reason to introduce charges during the day or night at this car park. The Racecourse was given to the people of Northampton to be used without charge and that includes the land the car park is situated upon.</li> <li>4. The all day charge at country parks will mean people will not visit at a time when health and well being, including mental health, is a national priority. The result will be more unfit people and consequential increase in obesity and health related illnesses.</li> </ol>
Garden waste and parking charges	Garden waste had historically been paid via council tax. Adding this as an additional "discretionary" fee is simply raising taxes by stealth. If you do not have the ability to dispose of Garden waste this is not a discretionary fee, it is a compulsory fee by a different name. It will also lead to

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	higher amounts of fly tipping. Car parks are already expensive and raising these will restrict access to valuable open spaces which people rely upon for their physical and mental health. Town center increases will reduce footfall and impact business revenue which will further kill the town centre.
Green Bin	Doesn't encourage people to dispose of cuttings etc wisely
Fixed penalty notices/Betting	<p>Why are there no changes to the fixed penalty notices? Rather than putting up fees on getting licenses for businesses and putting people off starting their own business and being compliant, why not keep license costs lower and reduce barrier to entry. Clamp down harder on those who often fail to have the appropriate paperwork? This seems like the wrong approach to encourage good business practices to me.</p> <p>Why not increase fees for betting activities either? Given these are gateways to people getting further into debt and money troubles, why should they not receive increases to their business practice?</p> <p>Museum fees/charges, Abingdon % change year on year is incorrect for corporate/private hire rows at the top.</p> <p>Great to see library service costs are not increasing, the library is well used in Brackley.</p> <p>Why are registration payments for marriages going up, surely this involves peoples time and their wages will have increased? Seems odd not to increase this to some degree when even things like photocopying are going up.</p>
Brown wheelie bin charges	Used to get this for free. I was not aware that the wnc were in the habit of making money from already hard pushed ct payers.
Parking	Local shops will close and people will go to retail parks
	<p>But the trains are [expletive] but charging 5% more</p> <p>The police can't investigate a crime but they can afford an unmarked speed van great use of money</p> <p>And the roads are crap so what exactly does they money go on</p>
Green waste and tip limits	Increase in fly tipping due to charges. Pointless parking restrictions and charges that cost money to administer and are not enforced
Increase in car parking charges	These seem incredibly steep increases. Understandably covering the cost of upgrading the current system but such a steep increase would deter people from using the facility.
Bulk collection and garden waste	Can see more fly tipping happening in the areas affected.
parking	<p>Your proposal will not raise revenue; it will just damage the town and the health of residents.</p> <p>Do not increase parking fees! They should be abolished.</p>

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	<p>Don't think for one minute that people will switch to the bus. I'm going to drive elsewhere rather than go to Northampton town centre.</p> <p>Particularly don't put fees on the racecourse. currently its the only car park left that I'll use.</p> <p>I go to parkrun every week and some weeks my [partner] parks there and does it too. Other weeks [they] just drops me off. If you introduce fees [they] will never do parkrun again and this will be bad for [their] health.</p>
Green waste	We utilise this service but will not be renewing it due to the increase and will use the black bin instead. You are encouraging people to dump in the countryside
Green waste charge	We have just started paying for this service and not one year later you are putting it up. Disgraceful
	Council tax should already be covering these services
Green bin collection	This service encourages maintenance of our environment, reduces waste. As an 'old' south Northants resident this additional charge already levied seems reasonable and any increase at this time seems excessive.
General Household waste collection	I understand that collections are to reduce to once every 3 weeks from once every 2 weeks. I would not be happy with this as it leaves waste too long and will cause increase in vermin (rats/foxes, etc) and bad odours.
Fixed Penalties	No increase for fixed penalties is not aligned to overall cost increases, these should be increased significantly (eg 100%) and enforcement should be improved.
	Fees should be harmonised across WNC
Green Waste Charges; Bulky Waste Charges	Whilst the Parish Council agrees with the principle of charging more for discretionary services, increases the costs of waste collection is counter productive and will result in more fly-tipping - particularly of green waste. The Village has seen an increase in green waste fly-tipping since the introduction of the charges for green waste and a 31% increase is likely to exacerbate this in the new season. This is unacceptable given the lack of support from WNC when fly-tipping is reported.
Applies to all of them	<p>Rather than maximise, a two tier approach would be better as follows:</p> <p>i) gradual increase for certain discretionary services in order to support essential services.</p> <p>ii) for others, maximise the income from certain discretionary services in order to support essential services.</p>
Car Parking	The local economy cannot afford a rise in car parking charges.
Parking charges	Increasing parking charges in the town centre will further discourage people from visiting Northampton and result in more businesses going to the wall as well as destroying what is left of a once thriving town. Income that could be generated from a thriving town centre will be lost and the town will become a ghetto requiring further investment from

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	the council. This is an incredibly shortsighted, lazy and cruel plan.
Domestic garden waste	The £42 fee included £10 towards the adult social care budget. To increase this service to £55 is disgusting. The true increase is nearer 45%. The idea of collecting garden waste separately was for environmental reasons. By discouraging the use of this by imposing a charge is detrimental to the environment. This is a typical example of the continued deceit of councillors from the old regime
Daventry Country Park	Increasing the parking cost from £2.20 to £12.00 is not in harmony with other areas, to put such a steep price increase on fresh air for residents and families is unfair in this current climate. It will encourage anti-social parking in the neighbouring areas, deter people from visiting and spending at the cafe, and deter people from exercising with a knock effect on people's health.
Parking charges	Increasing town centre parking charges or charges for use of recreational facilities will probably REDUCE income rather than increase the discretionary income derived. Town centre businesses already pay business rates, refuse charges, BID levy, multiple other business taxes and increasing the costs for staff and visitor/shopper parking will push many businesses into insolvency. The serious and combined efforts to improve the town and the lives of its people will be significantly undermined by ill conceived short term revenue raising efforts such as effective penalties for choosing the town and its recreational facilities rather than the free or inexpensive competing centres. .
Parking charges	Northampton town centre is already a shell of its former self, and by increasing parking charges you would push away even more visitors to the town centre, further worsening the already dire state of the town centre, and push shoppers to other nearby locations such as Rushden Lakes and Milton Keynes
Parking Charges	Increasing parking charges whilst trying to promote economic growth is counterintuitive, why would a customer come to Northampton and pay extra for parking when all the building work and regeneration is going on? The simple fact is they won't, I can see why people accuse the Council of trying to kill Northampton. In fact offering reduced parking fees would ensure more people feel able to visit our town and would enable the council to reduce its parking enforcement team which has an extremely high turnover of staff anyway.
Parking Fees	The increase in parking charges in Northampton particularly are likely to have a detrimental impact on local businesses in the town centre. I appreciate council cost across all Services have increased and raising additional income through various fees has to be explored. The 2 hour free parking on Saturdays encourages visitors into the Northampton town centre as does the free parking



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	<p>on Sundays. Therefore this needs to be retained to encourage visitors.</p> <p>The Council could explore offering free two hour parking on Sundays and then a single £1 fee for the rest of the day. The Council should review their monthly, quarterly and annual parking fees and reduce them and promote the benefits to customers.</p> <p>The council could consider amending tariffs and look to offer tariffs for 30 minute slots rather than every hour, this would support customers and local businesses.</p> <p>Visitors to Northampton generally except parking fees and by introducing 30 minute slots will support visitors and could attract more visitors. If 15 minute parking fees could be introduced this could be a game changer as visitors only pay for their time parked.</p> <p>Should parking fees be introduced in Brackley, Daventry and Towcester town centres?</p>
Car Parking	<p>In my opinion Northampton Town Centre is in severe decline: see footfall stats; business relocations; post covid. Parking charges should be reduced/eliminated NOT increased. They are an essential part of the towns infrastructure which should be made available in order to have a town economy. It is short-sighted and truly idiotic to charge people to come into town when local retail parks, which are far, far busier than our town centre, charge nothing.</p> <p>Racecourse car park: over the last 15/20 years a great deal of effort, and funds, have gone into successfully making the park much busier. To now add parking charges will reverse this trend and set us back 20 years. If anything, this parking facility should be extended to encourage/support businesses on the Kettering Road; continued growth in the use of the Racecourse, and to provide parking for residents. Parking in this area is severely over-subscribed, a situation which has been exacerbated by the number of HMO's/flats in the area.</p>
	As above.
Parking in town	Increased parking - no free parking will harm our town centre even more. You should be encouraging people into town and supporting local businesses during this very difficult time.
Car Parking	Northampton town centre needs more support, you can park for nothing at Rushden Lakes, and it's always full there, which is a bit of a clue.
Parking, green waste collection	Increasing parking charges will finally kill off Northampton town centre. We already tend to use retail parks or smaller local towns where parking is free.
Garden bin	Garden bin should be free it's your property you should pay for it not make tenants pay

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Garden bin	There should be the option to pay monthly and it is too expensive as you don't really use the service in winter
Parking	Any increase in parking rates and in particular times/days they are imposed will adversely affect town center shops and town center based charities to a far greater extent than revenue gained. Ie on Sundays traffic wardens seem to outnumber public.
Green Bins charge and proposed increase along with increase in cost of disposal of large items	Green bins are one of the basic services that is needed and should be covered in council tax payments The payment enforcement charges and proposed increase encourages fly tipping as people can't afford it. The same is the case with increasing the cost of removal of larger items this will encourage further fly tipping which is already a massive problem in rural communities such as where I live
Garden Waste £55 proposal	£42 was already too much for some people. A lot of people require garden waste bins. I think raising it £13 whole pounds is a rather greedy and obnoxious increase. Nobody will pay it and therefore you won't make any more money from it as you did last year. Because people purely will not pay for the increase. If people have large gardens that means they will have to possibly pay £110 for a garden waste subscription which a lot of the time the crews miss which again causes more distain for the local authority and damages the public opinion of the local authority. Which the people like myself on the phone lines have to deal with day in day out.
Garden waste and bulky waste	Increasing the charge will no doubt increase fly tipping. I don't understand how the garden waste has to increase so much just 1 year after it was made a stand alone charge
Garden Waste and Car Parking and Libraries	<p>The council should reduce garden waste collections such that they are concentrated during the peak months, and reduced or eliminated outside of this period. Many of us do not generate garden waste outside this period and should not be paying the level that we are paying to start with. If the fees increase then we'd look to dispose of the waste via the HWRC, if lots of people do this then it would increase costs for the council and reduce income from existing waste routes. It is already the case that the fees are excessive for the service actually used.</p> <p>Until Northampton town centre has an appropriate regeneration in effect (rather than in proposal or being undertaken) there should not be any change to free parking to avoid further transfer of customers away from the area to out of town retail, Weston Favell, Rushden Lakes or Milton Keynes. Given that most cars run at around 50mpg, and that a gallon currently costs around £6, there is likely to be motivation for many residents to avoid Northampton altogether.</p> <p>Parking charges at sites such as Brixworth Country Park should not be increased and no investment in parking</p>

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	<p>machines should be made, particularly where the cost of the machines is likely to be significant. Parking around Salcey Forest clearly demonstrates the outcome of excess parking fees, leading to road safety issues for local residents. Anglian Water sites have also become ANPR operated with significant charge increases, which has massively reduced the leisure aspect of a visit because you are constantly "watching the clock". Proposals to raise fees by £5 per day are totally disproportionate.</p> <p>Any further reduction in library provision is quite unwelcome. You should look at maximising use of the space for other activities and finding a way for donations to be accepted.</p>
Garden waste	It was always included in the council tax but you make a loop hole to say "we provided it for free!" You make the rules too suit your agenda!!
All	As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
All	Disgraceful.
	Stop taking from residents.
parking in town centre, waste collection	<p>costs for waste collection would be scandalous, it would reduce recycling, increase fly tipping, and have a negative enviromental impact.</p> <p>As a town centre charity and church, we would be negatively impacted by parking charges increasing or additional charges at weekends. We rely on a volunteer workforce of 50 adults a week and town centre parking charges has a massive impact on our funds or the volunteers ability to come to provide much needed services, as well as those accessing the crisis provision (food bank etc) and community services that are the backbone of support in our town, reaching in excess of 150 families a week. Furthermore it will deter shoppers to town centre businesses and the market - when already the town is struggling. What a terrible idea!</p>
Garden waste and waste collection / parking	<p>There has been a massive increase in fly tipping in my area over the past year which I imagine negates the income generated. Furthermore it penalised those who don't have cars to transport waste to recycle centres.</p> <p>With the reduction of bus services there is little choice but to drive and park.</p>
Green waste and Sunday parking	I think we already pay enough fir green waste. Especially as I gave ended up filling the bin I pay for with leaves off the trees in my street that the council does nothing to clean up As a member of [name] Church I strongly disagree to the proposal to charge car parking on a Sunday. Our church members rely on using car parks to attend church and it is wrong to charge them to park to attend their worship community.
Green bins	The value received is diminishing half the year the service is null and void. Cut the service in periods over winter to half

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Garden waste charge	This is a huge price increase.a from £42 to £55 in one year! This is a far greater increase than inflation. How is this justified? This will result in fewer people using the service, less composting of garden waste and more spent on residual disposal (as more people put garden waste in their back bin).
Parking	Parking costs in Northamptonshire are excessive and make people shop elsewhere. To even think about changing people to park on the outskirts such as the Racecourse is ludicrous and will reduce people using the park and local businesses
Car parking fees	I strongly disagree with charging for parking at the Racecourse and the increase at the country parks and town car parks. You should be encouraging people to visit these areas, to spend money in local businesses and enjoy the open air not keeping them indoors. Money is tight for everyone at the moment
Extra Green bin collection charge	I think an increase of over 30% not ok and will lead to more flytipping of waste. I would ask for this increase to be reconsidered.
both - Waste & Parking!	fortunately i live close to the Waste Recycling Centre so chose not to have this service and visit the Tip to dispose of my garden waste! When this first started it was included in Council Tax, then when charging started, there wasn't a reduction in Council Tax! On a point of principal was my choice! Increasing Parking charges to an already dead Town Centre will only add more nails to the coffin. I go to the Town Centre for minimal need. I prefer to drive all the way to Rushden Lakes, where Parking is FREE, or Milton Keynes where there are Zoned Parking which suits my needs and both have a good selection of decent shops! why visit, 'flatsville' as some call it, a Haven for those living there!
Car parking	No increase
Garden waste service	Understand why it is introduced , but no advertising around my area . Only found out 14 days before hand , where the neighbouring district was advertising 8 mouths before starting
Garden Waste	This chargeable service service has just been introduced. There should be efficiency savings in year 2 as the service beds in
Parking, bulky waste collection	Parking charges just drives people away from town. I certainly won't visit if I have to pay for parking, I currently only visit on Sundays for this reason. Bulky waste charges result in fly tipping and higher costs to recover waste from the countryside. This is far from a saving.
Garden Waist	I agree to a small fee to have garden waist collection ,but if you put this up to much people will stop using . I believe this

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	will result in more dumping of rubbish around the community.
Black Bin Collection	I disagree with the three weekly bin collection in the old SNC area; the new bins are too small, a family with nappies ect after 3 weeks in the summer the bin will not only be full but also a health health There is also an inconsistency in some of the charge increases that needs review. There is also an overriding principle, put the Council Tax up OK, but do not add cost on top and reduce the service, green bins are going up 30%
Green Bin Fee	This is a ridiculous increase in fee. Residents will be abandoning their Green Bins in droves. The Green Bins should be "free" to encourage green waste recycling. You do know what will happen, don't you? Yes, quite correct! Residents will be putting their green waste in the general waste bins.
Resident Parking Permits	Resident Parking Permits in empty streets like Hazelwood Road, could generate a significant amount of income for the Council.
Car Parking	Northampton town centre has significantly deteriorated in recent years. Car parking has been an issue. Not only has the amount of free parking reduced (after 18.00, first two hours on Saturday), but actually paying is an issue. The council needs to dispense with antiquated Meters and introduce online and contactless payments. Plus large increases at pubic parks will discourage exercise.
Green bin collection etc	Residents can decide whether to use these services or not according to their own budgets
Parking charges, bin charges.	Parking charges will lead to poorer access to parking for residents in neighbouring streets as free alternatives are sought. Bin charges increases fly tipping and there is sufficient of this around on the streets already.
Garden waste	Putting the price up will just encourage more fly tipping !!
Green Bin Charges	The council is exploiting residents of the former South Northants district.
All	Increasing these is likely to lead to less people using those services and therefore your overall income being reduced.
Garden waste	30% increase a joke what does it cost to operate and who by?
Car Parking & Garden Waste	Car Parking: increasing the cost of parking or introducing fees where none currently exist is only going to deter people from using local shops and if the shops don't get customers, those businesses will not survive, with the inevitable consequences. Garden waste: I already resent having to pay for my garden waste collection, just to bring my area in line with other under-performing areas. Increasing the charge is wholly unacceptable and every increase in charge means having less to eat - when you're on a state pension, it's as simple as that!

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Garden waste charge	Need to be kept to a minimum as those of us who live rurally have no choice but to use them and a small charge is not unreasonable but a big fee is. It will also lead to increased fly tipping and potentially areas eg overhang to footpaths not being looked after so the councils will then have to deal with this.
Regulatory	Lobby for the statutory fees for services like premises licence fees to be increased as they haven't been looked at since the legislation was implemented
Garden waste/ bulky items	Either more fly tipping will incur or the residents who already pay these charges will bear the cost further if people who don't use the services and just leave there waste on the streets
Green bin charge	You call them discretionary charges. Where do we put garden waste if we don't pay for a green bin?
	Pay for what you use over and above the standard services.
Parking and bins	If the funding agreement from central government was fair, you wouldn't be trying to grasp money from residents. You also refused to allow election after your council reorganisation meaning the same corrupt, self interested cabinet continues to fleece residents
Garden waste collection	The fees for this are disproportionate to the cost of recycling the green waste. You are merely encouraging fly tipping by increasing this already unnecessarily high "discretionary service" that up until recently was included in our council tax and justified increases in previous years
Parking and general	We need to encourage footfall unto the town - parking is already expensive. Some of the proposed increases are completely disproportionate
Waste	Will increase fly tipping. Charging for garden waste is bad enough so to up the cost will mean that people will find other places to put it.
Green bin	These shouldn't be charged for at all the price was already included in the council tax
Parking	The charges are a disgrace already and there is no where to park for residents in the town centre instead 600 plus flats with no parking will be built
	I currently don't have a green waste bin because of the cost Parking is not an issue for me
Car parking	There is a balance between slight increases and putting people off being able to exercise and get the often needed mental recharging that parks provide.
	People are fed up of watching public services crumble in front of their eyes.
Bulk Waste and Car parking	People can exercise their choices, with bulk waste and car parking, however household waste isn't a choice
Garden waste	You should be encouraging this. Not discouraging it by increasing charges to the max.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	I think this is necessary, just would like to add that some planning will be needed re dealing with any negative consequences (eg waste collection charges - possible increase in fly tipping or environmental health issues; parking charges - may affect town centre businesses as people choose out-of-town shops etc)
Garden waste	This should be provided as part of general waste and not charged separately. There are many of the council's services I don't use should I stop paying for them.
Parking/Garden waste	<p>Increasing the cost of parking is ridiculous. We have nothing left to come into the town for anymore so it will only drive away people more. Why pay to park when you can drive the short distance to wellingborough or rushden lakes and park for free? You should be encouraging people to visit this dreadful town not driving them away.</p> <p>Garden waste - we already pay an additional cost for this service on top of the council tax that we seem to receive so little for.</p>
Car Parking	This should be kept separate from the other charges, parking charges and the way you pay for parking are essential to the towns economic development, we should be reducing them not increasing them
Parking Charges	As a local business Manager, we have struggled to recruit due to the extortionate parking charges in place already, there is no consideration for workers who keep the town centre running. [...] in Bristol where parking was £200 a year for local business workers, in Milton Keynes before that; the top floor of a multi-storey was reserved for local workers at a reduced rate of £1 per day, yet here, with poorly maintained car parks (I might add) we are expected to pay over £1000 a year! If a further increase is applied, we may need to reconsider our position in the town centre.
Parking, garden waste	<p>Killing struggling town</p> <p>Already pay fortune for garden waste collection, where do you think people are getting money from what planet do you live on, hope you got a big pay rise this year as most of the population did not</p>
parking charges	On a recent trip to Derngate to watch a film, it cost me five pounds to park in ST JOHNS. If I had gone to Sixfield the parking is free. Why use Derngate. If the parking charges go up for Daventry country park why would any one use the carpark.
car parking charges in Northampton	Other towns in West Northants have free parking to support their retailers. Northampton should not have parking charges raised. Also, it's unfair that council employees get £40 pcm parking whilst retail staff have to pay in full. If the council want to save money they should freeze pay for councillors and consider the value of a £190k + benefits pa chief exec who can't run a business to budget

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Northampton town parking	Increasing car parking will further put off potential customers coming into town and hurt already struggling businesses. It's feasible that increasing parking costs will decrease parking leaving a deficit in fees received from parking
	The general increases will have an impact on use. They said, I accept that costs for some optional services may need to increase. Especially when considering my earlier comment around not increasing council tax charges.
Parking charges	do not raise any parking charges; in fact eliminate all parking charges to help local businesses
Kerbside Garden Waste Collection Subscription	Kerbside Garden Waste Collection should be free. Councils used a loop hole in government regulation to implement a charge. A 30% increase is extraordinarily high.
Car parking, garden waste, gambling, HMOs	<p>You're having us for mugs here. You snatched Brixworth Country Park [...] now proposing a ridiculous increase at Brixworth and Daventry, as well as charging for the Racecourse. I was at the Racecourse this morning and it was really busy. Charging for that car park will stop people coming here for their wellbeing and those that still come will clog up the roads even more, and they're already clogged up due to your insistence on letting [...] turn everything into HMOs against local residents' wishes. [...]</p> <p>Garden waste- I'll stop paying for it and share a bin with my neighbour, or compost, so you'll still be calling here to collect the shared bin but won't get the income. I predict your overall income will not go up nearly as much as you hope. You've got no idea how discretionary costs work - you council types assume you've got a monopoly on everything and can charge what you like. You can't.</p> <p>But you're not increasing costs on gambling dens or HMO licences. Funny that - almost like the evil capitalists that run those services are your dodgy tory mates and donors, and you aren't upset them, yet you upset ordinary folk by facilitating their growth and mugging us for everything else. [...]</p>
Northampton Town Centre Parking Charges	<p>The proposal to increase charges is ludicrous. The town centre economy is on its knees and this will further reduce footfall damaging what business is left. You should remove all charges and incentivize business investment (not just building flats).</p> <p>It should also be understood that many people have to pay to park to come into town for other reasons. In particular parking charges in Sundays and Holy days is completely reprehensible. I would respectfully remind the council that the Church of England is established with The King as its head, and thus an arm of the state. To charge people who are attending its services is morally wrong, especially when the congregations are working to support those in need who</p>



Name of fee/charge	Comment
	have been let down by both central and local government management.
Parking and garden waste	We could have a meter that charges for the air that we breath because that's how I see the council, greedy. Charging for everything giving nothing in return. We have the pleasure of living in a squashed, built up village that had nice green areas, lovely places to walk. All that's gone between yourself and the track Silverstone is a dreadful place to live. Traffic from morning until night speeding cars. Yet all you can think about is charging for parking.
Car parking	It's bad enough already for those who live near town centre. We are fed up with folks parking in our street in order to go to work or shopping in town. Make all town centre residential street permit only. Cut your charges. People would then be forced to use your car parks and by cutting fees you would actually get more revenue.
	Residents can choose if they want to use the above services... therefore if don't need that particular service, you don't pay for it
Parking charges	The council should remove all parking charges to encourage people to use Northampton town centre.I NEVER shop there as it is do disgustingly depressing
Green waste bin	I live in the Daventry area . Our bin costs have risen since the merger to become West Northants. £55(30%) is a large hike in price. It will result in waste being dumped. The tip is not even open 7 days a week. It could be open 6 days a week. Not sure all green bins will be renewed due to cost pressures and other increases in local charges.
Parking	This is absolutely disgraceful. Successive policies have absolutely killed the town centre to the point there is hardly anything there anymore. Increasing parking is just going to speed up the decline of the ones that are still hanging on by a thread. Something similar to MK should be introduced where there are cheaper rates when you can prove that you work in the centre. I am all for having parking charges but when there is absolutely nothing to visit in the centre anymore, an incentive to go in needs to be made. A focus should be to lower rates so that shops will come back to the town and get it thriving again, and at that point the parking can be increased.
Parking	Stop charging
Waste collection, pest control and country parks & Northampton parking charges	<p>The increase of nearly 31% on green waste collection will result in significantly less participants i.e. less income but will also increase fly tipping and in particular see a significant increase in garden waste in the residual bin and if the three week collection is approved this will compound the issue further.</p> <p>The increased charge for bulky waste at 20 - 30% increase will cause an increase in fly tipping of large items, which</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>means a heavy increase in the clear up of such and resident dissatisfaction.</p> <p>The increase of pest control charges seem to put the costs significantly ahead of commercial prices in South Northants and I imagine elsewhere. It must be kept competitive or we will lose income.</p> <p>When incomes are lower and health is an issue we should not be increasing car parking charges in the country parks. We should be keeping the price low and increasing income by encouraging more people to visit them.</p> <p>Regarding Northampton parking we must be encouraging people to come into town and hold prices down, particularly with the disruption that Mayorhold's closure will cause.</p>
Car parking	<p>Would like to be encouraged into town. Particularly evening and weekend parking to be free. Previously could park after 6pm on street and now this is not possible. Other places nearby such as Milton Keynes, Rushden lakes and Daventry do not charge. There is no incentive to use cultural facilities and spend money eating and drinking in restaurants. This move to increase charges would be counterproductive.</p>
Parking	<p>This has a big effect on footfall in the town centre, which is supposed to be a priority at present. Saving the town centre and the businesses that are there. Lots of new businesses have opened parking increases won't help them survived!</p>
Parking	<p>As a local resident in the town centre the car parking fees are not discretionary for us. An increase also harms the local businesses who are already suffering greatly from increased bills.</p> <p>We have to park in council carparks and we do not have choice in this matter. The lack of a sensible visitor permit system is also crippling at times when we need work to the house for a sustained period and encourages us (and presumably others) to largely forego non-essential work that could improve our house and the local area.</p>
parking charges in Northampton & Racecourse	<p>Many towns across the uk have suffered from the lock down from covid hitting many retailers, leisure &amp; the entertainment venues .Town centres are seeing the closing of many pubs and retailers as there is not enough footfall to maintain them .In Northampton you only have to go there to see how this has affected our town centre and compare pre pandemic footfall levels to today. The proposed increase will have a negative effect and further the fuel the exodus of businesses .The WNC is about to spend millions on revamping the market square and in two yrs time this will be completed , but what will be left business wise to support this new and great initiative .The current free parking periods in the evenings &amp; daytime does help our town</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	economy as does the free parking in places like Towcester and Daventry etc goes to help their towns still struggling in the fragile economy at the current time .Overall the proposed increase in charges will have a negative effect. The proposed charges for the pavilion will have a negative effect on the residents who use this wonderful asset. Many people use the racecourse to help their mental well being and to exercise and this helps people not to use the adult and social care service in later life ,the very department that needs extra funding because not enough money is being invested in the beginning, so your scoring an own goal .If you had developed the pavilion rather than sat back this could of been an asset earning you money through rates.
all	charges should reflect the costs of providing services and where they are discretionary users can make an informed decision on whether to use the services provided based on this cost.
Garden waste, car parking	I pay enough for what was and still should be a service covered in my tax paid to you As for carparking just won't use your car parks so that's a big backward step for your income and for my health as won't use the country parks
Building, Insulation and Gambling	You clearly are well lobbied by the Gambling "industry" and at the same time hitting people who for personal and patriotic reasons wish to maximise the living areas without putting houses in every patch, and to save energy by insulating their homes.
Pay & Display Charges	I strongly believe that town centre residents should be able to park on their street without having to pay. Many people in the town centre have jobs they have to drive to and most of them end up having to pay to park on street as the timing of 7am-7pm does not allow for an 8 hour shift or the fact that a lot of people work a shift system which at some point during the day they have to pay for parking which most cannot afford. And now you want to increase the cost. This is grossly unfair to the residents.
	If we had decent big named shops, a full market, clean streets, empty street bins, pot hole free roads, free weekend parking, cheaper week day parking, car parks that were clean, well lit & in good condition, 100% better services for all nobody would mind a slight increase every few years, but we don't. You want to increase parking, scrap free weekend parking, you moved the market to the bottom of town which was a very stupid decision to make when you could have used Abington Street or closed half the market & used the other half! Stop wasting money on fountains we don't need or want!!!! Look at what other towns have done to attract new shops, to bring people into their towns, listen to the people of Northampton for once! Shout loud & proud about our history, other towns & cities do, Npton doesn't bother!

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Car parking charges	<p>The whole principle of a parking charge out to be viewed as a fine on users who consider visiting towns, country parks etc. I never ever understood the rational of saying you can visit the town for say 2 hours, but then please leave! (As rates increase).</p> <p>This has a huge detrimental effect on traders, who see such visitors who are willing to spend money, but are not wishing to get a horrible fine for overstaying their welcome in the town, country park etc.</p> <p>The use of private car parking companies and their exceptionally poor customer service, putting excessive profit over customer experience, leaves a nasty taste in the mouth of all who fall victim to such parasites, not to mention the very long drawn out procedural process, specifically designed to encourage victims to part with money to make the issue go away.</p> <p>As a result, I and many others avoid going to such places, preferring instead, more welcoming shopping centres and tourist attractions that do not have such unwelcoming parking enforcement.</p>
Car parking	<p>I feel that there is little incentive to come into Northampton Town centre already. It is poorly maintained, bordering on being unsafe and there is little in the way of quality shops. Increasing car parking fees will just make things worse, coupled with the stupid decision to move the market, and anyone with a car would be better to go elsewhere. Rushden Lakes has the quality chains, Market Harborough has the independents, with much lower parking fees.</p>
Car parking	<p>The town is flying on its feet any increase will drive away more visitors.</p>
Call out for vermin infestation	<p>Up 132.4% from £37 to £86 - this is extortionate. There should be a lower fee for those who are solely reliant on state benefits.</p>
Garden waste and bulky waste collection.	<p>Not collecting bulky waste encourages fly tipping. Whilst it is true that not everyone uses the garden waste service, this was NOT free. It was part of our council tax. Personally, I do use this collection but I do not use schools, libraries or street lights but I gladly help pay for them in my council tax; were these free too?</p>
Parking	<p>The town centre is full of empty shops. We are losing reasons to travel to town daily. With the competition from MK, Rushden Lakes etc, having to pay to park just puts people off.</p> <p>Free parking is essential to tempt people back. We also need to subsidise empty units to encourage independent retailers.</p>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Garden waste	Ridiculous to charge for this. If you increase it, I'll continue to share my neighbour's bin and split the cost, and advise the rest of my street to do the same
Car parking	Increasing car parking fees will deter people coming into the town centre. This would result in further decline in the prospects for shops and businesses
Car parking	The town is already a disgrace, why discourage the few people who do choose to visit!
Garden waste disposal	I have a relatively small garden but still need to dispose of garden waste a few times during the year. I'm an older person who cannot take it for disposal myself. I already pay the same as someone with a larger garden who puts their bin out every fortnight so already the charges are expensive for people with smaller gardens so to increase this by £13 is even more unfair because it targets lower income households. Also taking away free parking in the town centre deters people. I used to shop regularly in town when there was some free parking available but now shop at retail parks for free or online.
Garden waste	Stop ripping us off
Green (garden bins) should be free, it saves landfill charges	Many of my neighbours admit to putting their garden waste in the black bin rather than pay the £42 per year
Car parking	If you take away free parking and put up costs then there will be even fewer people in the town centre. Already spending a lot of money on not strictly necessary changes to market square. That's not enough to get people back, you need shops open and free parking to stop people going to Rushden Lakes instead
Car parking	Why would anyone want to pay more just to park? For our town centre?
Car parking	It should be free in town centre. Shop keepers and town businesses are competing with free parking in Rusden Lakes, the town will die on its feet if you don't do more to support local business. It should be free totally or 3 hours free.
garden waste	potential to increase fly tipping You have privatised far too many services and appear to not be exercising control over them. Contractors should be required to ensure that they keep their increase in charges below the level of inflation
Bulky waste & parking	When you need a new bed, the old one needs disposal. For many poorer residents the cost of disposal is 25% of the cost of the bed. For the more well off, it's a negligible extra. Areas of predominantly Band A housing should have cheaper charges than those living in Band F. This would help reduce street dumping and tipping.  Parking proposals have already been rejected for parks. The

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	town centre parking is badly administered (no contact less payment) and the facilities and shops in the town simply don't merit the charges. Charge for parking in Rushden Lakes where all the money is? They have free parking while the poor quality town centre shop customers have ever higher charges. Its killing the town.
Garden waste collection subscription	I have nothing against maximising income from discretionary fees and charges but increasing the garden waste collection subscription by 30.95% when the inflation rate is 10.5% is a bit too much, wouldn't it be better to raise it by 24.00% covering inflation related pressures and increasing income that way to £50 from £42. You could introduce a one off 10 pack garden waste sacks for £25 and a one off 20 pack garden waste sacks for £50 somewhat like your colleague's in North Northamptonshire Council have done with their garden waste collection subscription as a suggestion for those who want their garden waste collected but don't want to subscribe.
Garden waste collection Car parking at country parks	Only just been introduced in to the previous SNC area and already it is going to be increased. Ridiculous increase in parking charges for country parks. This will result in people parking illegally or not using the facilities. A small increase yes but not as much as proposed.
Kerbside Garden Waste & Car Park charges	The proposed increase for garden waste is significantly higher than the rate of inflation and as per previous years, is essentially a stealth tax. Increasing the car park charges and bringing charges for Sundays is counterproductive for the town centre and detrimental to the struggling businesses in town.
Garden waste bins, fixed penalty notices and parking,	The increase is significant and I worry it will lead to increased fly tipping as people will not be able to absorb this price rise. I cannot understand why the fixed penalty notices are left untouched this does make sense- especially if you reduce waste collections! I am so concerned about increasing parking charges in town. This is an excellent strategy to kill off the town centre even more. We are encouraged to shop in Northampton but actively penalised by imposing parking charges especially at weekends. Please reconsider the impact of these decisions if implemented.
Parking	Town center parking being free should be maintained or extended for the health of our remaining independent high street stores
Northampton Town Centre Parking	For the purpose of the consultation in relation to the implementation of increased Car Parking Charges within Northampton Town Centre, I request that it is formally recorded that Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement is opposed to these increases. A meeting was held between a BID Board Representatives and WNC, [names]..[Date] Reasons for opposition by the Northampton

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>BID are as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Consultation Process.</li> <li>• This was released on 21st December at a time when retail, leisure hospitality businesses were at peak trading times for or office based businesses were closed down for two week period providing little time for meaningful response from business.</li> <li>• The overall proposal consists of a number of interdependent elements. If a decision is made to change any one of these elements then the entire proposal would be affected. It is therefore difficult to comment on any single element without understanding the implications on the rest of the proposal.</li> <li>• Based upon previous experience, stakeholder engagement at the early stages of drawing up proposals will mean that the ultimate plan has tried to accommodate/balance all views as much as possible prior to release. This has not been done in this case.</li> <li>• The situation we find ourselves is that the BID's engagement has had very limited time to have meaningful and productive input.</li> </ul> <p>• Level Playing Field –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal as it stands implies that Northampton Town Centre is carrying the rest of the county at a time when it is not only facing the same challenges as all other towns but will have the additional upheaval of major public realm works over the next two years. The proposals do not include the introduction of charges to three other towns which currently do not contribute to the overheads of their own parking provisions. The negative impact in reduced levels of Footfall is clearly visible within the footfall graphs of 2018. In comparison to 2019 the footfall trends (peaks and troughs) were aligned throughout the year but at a reduced levels and a downward trend across the year. How much thought has been given to a potential increase in usage and revenue generated if the car parking prices were decreased and the visible downward trend potentially reversed?</li> </ul> <p>(Graph can be accessed by emailing <a href="mailto:info@northamptonnid.co.uk">info@northamptonnid.co.uk</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidised Parking.</li> <li>• The BID representing town centre businesses and their staff finds it difficult to understand how WNC can morally justify reduced parking fees for their employees at the same time resulting in additional cost to staff of other town centre organisations and businesses. Businesses typically cannot attract the required levels of skill and resource due to the cost of parking. The BID asks that any reduced rates for</li> </ul>

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>Council staff are also applied to everyone who works in the town centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.</li> <li>• The BID questions the use of car parking revenue to subsidise other Council budget requirements. Can the legal team share with us details of the clause which they deem make the proposals lawful?</li> </ul>
Green waste bin, bulky waste, 3 weekly bin collection, car parking	<p>Green waste bin payments are new in the SNC area and residents were already unhappy with having to pay £42 for a service that was previously free. The proposed £13 increase is not an insignificant rise. Again bulky waste collection charges are already high and further increases would not be welcome. There is a lot of concern about bin collections being changed from 2 weekly to 3 weekly. All these three proposals would increase the occurrence of fly-tipping, which would surely result in higher waste costs for the Council. Increasing car parking charges would be discriminatory towards rural residents who have no choice but to use a car to access services in towns or to visit country parks. There is currently no provision for public transport/cycling connecting rural communities with towns.</p>
Car parking	<p>So short sighted of the council Barely anything left in the town in the way of retail and you now intend to increase car parking Does not make sense</p>
Gambling Act fees	<p>Would like to see these increased to recognise the damage done to individuals and society by gambling and disincentivise opening of more gambling/betting establishments.</p>
Green Waste bins	<p>This should not be increased already too expensive and should be included in The Council Tax again, will only encourage more fly tipping which will cost us tax payers more.</p>
Car Parking fees and charges	<p>No objection to increases in car parking charges, which will potentially act as a disincentive for people to travel by private car, therefore helping to meet emissions reductions targets. However this needs to be part of a wider package including real incentives for residents to travel by other means including active travel and public transport. Participation in the national scheme to offer reduced price bus fares is a positive that is somewhat negated by the cuts in bus services already implemented. The council's record on promoting and implementing active travel schemes to date has been disappointing.</p>
Car Parking	<p>I believe Car parking charges should be harmonised across West Northants Council rather than just increase prices in Northampton Town Centre. This could be used to fund an hour or so across West Northants Council which would be fairer and help ALL businesses.</p>
All of them !	<p>Thats what the council tax is for ! Stop killing town centres with parking charges and create a</p>



Name of fee/charge	Comment
	busy centre adding to the economy rather than dying. Create positive communities and environments rather than those driven by how much can we charge for parking !
Waste Service Fees and Charges	<p>The 30% increase in the charge for collection of Green Waste bin will only result in people opting out of the scheme and an increase in fly tipping. Already in my rural locality, fly tipping (often garden waste) is a real problem. Not everyone has an alternative way of disposing of green waste and amenity tip hours are restrictive - the likelihood is that some green waste will also end up in the black bin! In reality the increase is more than 30%, given the council's proposals to go to a 3 weekly waste collection which will mean paying 30% more for a 33% reduction in service.</p> <p>Although not a fee paying issue, the change to a 3 weekly bin collection, will also impact on fly tipping. The Council has encouraged recycling, rightly so, but our recycle bin goes out full to capacity once a fortnight.</p>
Garden waste and bulky waste collection	It's ridiculous that we have to pay extra for this. By charging for these you will just encourage fly tipping.
Parking Costs	There is already no reason to visit Northampton Town centre, increasing charges to park is just going to discourage more people to visit.
Garden waste collection	30% rise is much to high myself I am well into my 70s no car its a service which is necessary not a choice 10 % risk at most
All fees and charges	Should only be increasing by the current % increase based on pay unless the cost of providing that service has increased exponentially and then it should be costed out on a per service basis and not just by some random %.
Green waste collection and car parking	<p>These charges should not be increased.</p> <p>As a Daventry household I object to the fact that my costs have gone up in alignment with the rest of the area rather than the rest of the area being reduced to what I was paying.</p> <p>Car parking charges should not be increased as it simply deters people from Northampton, which is a dump anyway, and you need to encourage us all you can to visit rather than putting up charges. I would rather pay to shop in Market Harborough than Northampton.</p>
Garden waste collection	This is disproportionately affecting the rural areas where residents tend to have gardens and need to dispose of garden waste. In South Northants we will have gone from it being included in our Council Tax to having to pay £55. The rural areas seem to miss out in favour of Northampton town. I strangely disagree with this increase.
a] Planning Application b] gambling licence fees and fixed penalty charges c} garden waste bin charge	a] Some of these increased charges do seem to be very high, especially for private owners with a 'not for profit' reason for the work being undertaken. Would it be possible to have two levels of charges, one for commercial projects, one for private owner occupiers

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>b] I take the view that it is scandalous that neither of these are being increased in line with inflation. For many people gambling is an addiction and has disastrous consequences, it is wrong to take the view that there is some form of social acceptance by allowing the fees to reduce in comparative terms. This equally applies to freezing fixed penalty charges, the punishment is therefore being reduced and not being maintained at a constant level.</p> <p>c} How can increasing this charge by less than inflation be justified when the objective is surely to reduce the amount of material being sent for landfill. The increase will deter householders from taking licence out.</p>
Car parking at The Racecourse	The proposed fees are ridiculous if we wish to encourage outdoor activities/exercise
Race course car park	You cannot start charging to use the car park at the race course as that park is for everyone from wide and far. Also it means residents outside the area will park on residential streets meaning we can't park near our homes.
Garden waste	Given the countries green policy it should be covered under that
	People gone poor
Car parking	Having to pay to park in Northampton town centres already killing it so this will just finishing it off. People don't have money to shop as it is so having to pay even more to go will just mean people will go shop where it's free...like Rushden lakes
	Tend to agree as residents then have a choice on whether to use a discretionary service or not
	<p>I feel that it is unfair to load discretionary services to support essential services, this is penalising people that take up the offer of the discretionary services. The residents that don't take the discretionary services get off with not paying as much towards essential services.</p> <p>Why should the few support the many?</p>
	Could you make this question any more vague?
Waste and parking	<p>Garden bin going up by nearly a third!!! Is that legal? What are you going to do with all that money? I'll just burn it instead but I know that's not good for then environment. You should put parking down not up. How are you going to encourage people to visit the town centre when you charge them so much! You're spending a fortune on doing up the market but who's going to use it if no one can afford to get into town?</p> <p>Do you really expect people to read all of these pages? I had to look up the extraordinary amount of green waste charge as you conveniently kept the details hidden in your explanation. I guess you're hoping people don't bother to read this otherwise who would agree to it!</p>
Garden waste collection. Bulky waste collection, Car Parking charges	Many elderly people enjoy gardening & growing their own food, but cannot manage to take their garden waste to the Tip. Other families on low income who grow their own

Name of fee/charge	Comment
	<p>vegetables &amp; fruit, also may not have a car to take waste to the Tip, so are likely to fly tip it, causing more expense to the council.</p> <p>Bulky Waste collection - More fly tipping will be the result, which must cost the WNC increasing costs. This happened when the charges were first brought in, Can the WNC cost the the amount for collecting fly-tipping, which in certain areas of Northampton, occurs on a daily basis, against the amount of revenue gained from increasing the fees.</p> <p>Car parking charges- a rise will discourage people from visiting the town centre to do their shopping, or attending entertainment, museums etc. This will also mean more social isolation. People who have to use their cars for work will be unfairly penalised unless weekly tickets have a greater discount.</p>
	Cut the private companies fees and profits, stop taking our money.
Green waste	You introduced it !! In the first place and now to charge is down to your own in abilities to control your budget and the poor council tax payer is paying the price
Garden waste	Because this is not a choice. Gardens generate waste.
Green waste	<p>It's a disgrace of all the waste collected the Green waste can and is recycled . It's a tax on gardens</p> <p>If ot was on black bins more care would ne taken to sort waste before land fill. Green bin payments are a disaster</p>
Green Waste Charges; Bulky Waste Charges	Whilst the Parish Council agrees with the principle of charging more for discretionary services, increases the costs of waste collection is counter productive and will result in more fly-tipping - particularly of green waste. The village has seen an increase in green waste fly-tipping since the introduction of the charges for green waste and a 31% increase is likely to exacerbate this in the new season. This is unacceptable given the lack of support from WNC when fly-tipping is reported.
Bulky waste	The charges on disposable of bulky items encourages fly tipping which costs the council more in the long run
Garden bins and free bus passes	Need the garden bin but cannot afford huge increases in cost, also need the bus pass
Northampton car parks	Proposals to remove the 2 hour free Saturday parking, and introduce Sunday charges, would be hugely counter-productive and damaging to town centre businesses already suffering from reduced footfall and traffic. The town centre does not need any more disincentive for people to come into town.
Too many to list	The increases in costs does not match the inflation rate which was the reason for the previous council tax increases. As such it's unclear what impact this will have. Its entirely possible that this will not have the impact of increasing the amount of money the council has access too with individuals not having the additional money available due to their own financial situation being worse.

Name of fee/charge	Comment
Garden waste fees, Building Control fees	Increases are simply too high. Anything over 20% is way to much and for private householders the risk of not being able to have an affordable garden waste collection will not encourage people to maintain their gardens, grow their own food, not dump hedge clippings etc in the countryside.
Bins	I would rather pay more for bin collection to at the very least stay the same. In fact I would rather grey bin was emptied weekly.
Garden waste collection	The proposed increase will place an intolerable strain on peoples budgets taking into account the increases in the cost of living. Since the introduction of fees for this service commenced more 'garden' waste has been dumped/fly tipped. The availability of decomposing garden waste provides the perfect habitat for rats. If the general public are supposed to take their garden waste to the refuse tip for disposal the limit on how many times a vehicle can visit the recycling centres will have to be adjusted to facilitate this. I could accept a modest increase but the proposed increase is far too high.
Parking	Pushing more people away from town centres into retail parks
Car parking	As a business in the town centre we really are effected when car parking charges are changed; when the last rise went up our business footfall noticeably dropped. People do not come in when they can not affordably park!
Parking charges	Focus on safety issues only and dispense with general parking charges
Car parking	Car parking is different from the others listed as examples of discretionary services as it's the only one that people have a choice of providers over, and impacts on other revenue streams. It makes no sense to increase parking charges when this will result in people choosing to shop elsewhere, meaning that more town centre shops will shut and you will lose more revenue from business rates, rent etc. than you stand to gain from increasing the parking charges.
	as long as the cost increase can be justified i am happy
Parking charge increases.	Already have very poor footfall for a town centre and not much to attract people in. If parking charges increase/ get ride of free parking then more people will go else where when all local retail parks and near by city's have free parking so cost of travel is worth it for the better selection on offer.
Building control fees	There are some big hikes in the proposed charges which will make some peoples ambitions harder to reach and harder to pay for.
Parking Charges on Daventry Country Park	The savings outweigh the health and wellbeing benefit this public asset provides to residents in Daventry and the wider area. Also the amount proposed is far tooo high for the facilities available, it would be better to have a pricing structure that provides free parking for the first hour, then a £2/3 charge for all day

## Draft General Fund Capital Programme 2023-2027

The Capital Strategy demonstrates how the Council will make expenditure and investment decisions in line with the Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's priorities. It sets out the key objectives and broad principles to be applied by the Council when considering capital investment and its funding and provides the context for how the Medium-Term Capital Programme seeks to support the realisation of the Council's vision and corporate priorities. The draft general fund capital programme has been developed to ensure a robust mechanism to deliver our priorities within the finances available and is our approach to effective, long-term planning and investment for the benefit of our residents.

The draft budget only includes additions to the current capital programme where the new schemes are fully funded and therefore where there is no financial impact for the Authority. A further review will be undertaken of all other proposals to agree prioritisation of schemes before they are submitted for final budget.

During the financial year 2023/24 the Council proposes to carry out a total capital programme of £83.6m which includes new capital schemes totalling more than £12.2m to improve local roads. This includes £4.7m for mending potholes, and using some public health funding for the year ahead to progress a range of schemes aimed at improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities, and continuing to support communities through financial difficulties around the cost of living.

Details of the capital programme for 2023/24 are set out in [Appendix E](#). If you would like further details about any of the schemes, please contact us at [haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk)

### **10.If you have any comments on these proposals, please give us your views below:**

There were 153 responses to this question.

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Potholes Fund and Highways maintenance	Hope includes an element of quality checking. Poor filling and finishing (e.g. sealing edges), leaving gaps where tarmac has flowed round the signs once sign removed etc create weak points and hole / damage reappears.
All capital schemes	It is still important to invest in capital projects to maintain West Northants as a good place to live and work.
Local road improvements	West Northamptonshire Council has failed miserably to upkeep roads my area. Charge more to/insist on the idiots who dug up the roads and pavements to put fibre all over the town, the non repaired roads are getting worse and some will be beyond repair soon.
Pothole Repairs	The cost of this work should be covered by vehicle road tax, and any speeding fines or other criminal fines using vehicles. HGV vehicles should pay a levy to pay towards the upkeep of the roads they use on a constant basis.

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	Increasing council tax will affect mental health people including myself are finding it hard to pay for basic bills so increasing the council tax will be really hard and not suitable at all this should not increase if anything with what the world is going through with bills going sky high there should be a reduction or a freeze.
	Instead of investing abroad or into stupid schemes in the town centre and instead spend it on these services
	the council cannot be trusted that is where the extra money will be spent
	I'm afraid empty promises ,replying to e mails and answering the phone would be a huge step forward.
Potholes	Support allocating more money to this. To save money I don't think the council need to get involved in residents health and I also think only money specifically allocated from the government should support those in financial difficulties as it is the same people getting all the cost of living support
Highway repairs	Local roads are in a dangerous state and attempts to fill potholes are invariably inept and short-lived.
Roads	For years now road around Northampton have deteriorate significantly. The whole town is one big dirty, pot hole
All	This could easily be paid for by cutting the ridiculous pension contributions of useless lazy officers
All	As predicted, most of the funds are in Northampton, funded, presumably by the reserves from other councils.
Potholes	Actually start mending them!
Pot holes	That is a huge amount of money! What a fantastic budget to work with! I look forward to driving on roads that aren't full of pot holes!
All of them	Stop wasting money, more accountability needs to be in place
Cost of living	When will there be any kind of help for people that earn just slightly too much for any reduction on council tax or receive any other form of help but are struggling equally if not more than those already receiving support through benefits and reductions?!
Repairing roads potholes	Source improved alternative modern materials and improved processes to prevent potholes reoccurring, reducing the longterm costs and inconvenience. Eg, You rarely see potholes on German roads and autobahns.
Highways (et al)	Capitalising pothole repairs is a simple avoidance of an essential revenue cost. Maximise information creation & sharing for tactical repairs. Don't wait till a hole is 12 times bigger before using 12 x the materials. Don't over-specify developer requirements to create expensive kit, instead utilise cash to achieve long term objectives such as increased cycling & walking, lower carbon.
Extra charge to empty Green bin.	Why bother the council don't listen but carry on fleecing us.

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Roads	You do nothing to improve roads which are on an appalling state.
Garden waste	Charging extra for this will simply encourage the dumping of waste in the countryside.
Range of schemes for wellbeing and health care etc.	"progress a range of schemes aimed at improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities, and continuing to support communities through financial difficulties around the cost of living." This is nonsense, and little more than grand words for the cost plan. These capital schemes will deliver no return on investment and are too opaque council tax payers will see no demonstrable improvement or change. Moreover, I suspect these capital schemes include additional headcount that will further increase costs once they become OPEX. Roads and potholes are supported by me.
Potholes Fund	£4.7M is an extremely large amount of money to dedicate to this one problem As a motorist - that's great - but the quality of the repairs I have seen over the last 8 years has been generally poor. What steps are being taken to improve the effectiveness of this fund by increasing repair inspection and applying penalties for poor quality repair work? In addition, what steps are being taken to utilise improved road-mending technology?
	In Northampton, the potholes that were repaired last year are in need of repair. In Newport Pagnel Rd, all the repaired potholes last year must be repaired. I suggested last year that the section of this road which is in a bad stated of repair should be relaid to save cost on temp repairs.
Parking charges on Racecourse car park	As a resident in Colwyn Road, we experience parking issues in the surrounding streets. The issue is compounded by traffic wardens targeting residents in the early hours of the morning. By introducing a charge for park users to park at the Racecourse, will add to the issue. It's a shortsighted way of raising money. A suggestion would be to double up parking wardens to report litter and fly tipping, as well as anti-social behaviour. This would help keep the community cleaner and safer.
potholes and wellbeing	potholes necessary and could be life saving. wellbeing should be statutory needs. too many clubs and groups accessing pots of money from wnc without real outcomes. GPs should be encouraged to use some of their funds within their practices- more than social perscribing. use of external funds and joint bids should be more. stop doing exercise activities for kids and let them walk for free and encourage activities
Absent scheme to promote energy efficiency or respond to climate and bio-diversity concerns	There is reference to the Council's priorities for Clean and Green but so sign of any action to improve the situation. Also no sign of the opportunities to be had from engaging with parish councils to promote localised activity

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Highways Maintenance	The maintenance of highways in the council definitely need a constant funding to keep them in good shape and allow pot holes to be fixed asap
Potholes fund	An increasing problem that has damaged my car tyres and wheels. National Highways should be lobbied to deal with the worsening carriageway on the A45 between Barnes Meadow and M1 Junction 15
Capital Programme	The link does not take you to a list of proposals but only to a summary document so you need to re-consult on this.
Highways	We are living in a third world country when it comes to the state of Northamptonshire roads. pothole filling is no longer the answer as you are just filling old with new & making the roads impassable in places. We need a strong, fully-funded 5 year programme of road maintenance in order to bring our roads up to standard - neighbouring authorities can do it, why not WNC? You only have to drive along the A361 until you get to Oxfordshire to see the incredible difference. Where are all the savings going from creating the Unitary Authorities?
Highways	Repairs need to be done properly not just a bit of tarmac splashed into a whole without the crumbling sides being sorted out so they fail as soon as you get extreme weather
	I think this funding is important as our roads need to be maintained properly to ensure public safety
residents' wellbeing/reducing health inequalities	Please do not fund these. People can walk, use our beautiful parks etc People should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, unless you can evidence strongly and definitively, that such schemes are effective and have an impact
Highways maintenance	Our roads are years behind where they should be, and we need to maximise our capital spend to help ease the need for more revenue budget spending - long term fixes rather than whack a mole with potholes.
pot holes investment	Need to be addressed our road are a menace and a disgrace. Investment tops up assets and allows for extra costs.
Potholes	A disgrace have you ever gone out and checked the work carried out and how long did it take for it become a pothole again most of our roads are a disgrace
	You talk about the same things every year but nothing has changed. Roads are still bad and nothing changes. We live here why don't you let the town talk because we know what the problems are.
	no.
Repairing Pot holes.	What a joke some of the potholes have been waiting for years to be fixed, as usual the council are all talk and no do.
all	OK but inadequate
All capital programe should be on hold for next financial year.	The town cannot just cope with traffic, or other developments. Plus there is a lot of misuse, unnecessary community funding , which only minorities benefit , and



Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	where local residents are not allowed to use, join . Where is the council equality ? Everything seems to be done for [description] but no help for [description] pensioners. Stop funding now, audit, investigate then next year .
Misc	Let's face it, the majority of people (me included) have no idea what this is all about. Can I request that you use plain speak so that your residents can understand what it is you are proposing. £4.7m for mending potholes? Can I suggest that the proper investment is made so that the job is done once and one properly. Then maybe you won't need that same fund again in 24/25 - that is ludicrous! WNC are really good at sticking a plaster on an issue and not getting to the route cause.
Local Roads	They are a disgrace in rural communities. Investment needs to be a priority.
Pothole repair	Roads are in a very poor state compared to other local areas eg Warwickshire and hope that this situation will improve this year.
Potholes	MEND THE ROADS! The roads are in a frankly shocking state. SORT THEM OUT
	Yes, the roads should definitely be repaired - the pot holes are worse than ever. This needs to be done without being a bargaining chip for excessive house-building. Healthcare obviously needs improving, the local doctor's surgery has been over stretched for a long time and this is in large part due to doctors leaving for lucrative agency work.
investments	You have already invested 10 million in another council that has recently gone bust. This is a POOR investment and clearly you cannot make good decisions with our money, I would rather you spend that money on us than play banker and gamble our money on massive risks
Local Roads	Im tempted to think that only £4.7million will soon be lost in our largest potholes quite quickly which riddle the county, its gone past the point where filling potholes is the remedy we need to resurface the roads completely, our highways and byways are a disgrace.
Redevelopment of town square in Northampton.	Why do we in Towcester have to accept paying towards this £8 million white elephant. Rather you spent the money on fixing our roads.
	Perhaps you want to start filling pot holes around brackley.
	I do not agree with prudential or internal borrowing. All schemes should be funded without the need for borrowing if going forward. This will just result in more debt and misspending
	All [expletive]
All	Is it essential? Can costs be cut? Free playscheme for children on a low income for example? Is it essential? Don't put the council tax up for people already struggling to cover costs for other people who are struggling..... go back to the government. Feed back to the government. You need

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	more funding. You can't get blood out of a stone from people who are already struggling.
Road scheme	Shouldn't the council have been doing this already? It is seems highly disingenuous to present this as a "new" activity.
	During the Ukraine conflict we are in very special measures. As a temporary measure use capital reserves to support operating costs
Public health	Can't see anything on appendix E about public health
Potholes	It is always evident you have crossed the border into Northants by the poor quality of the roads. It is an embarrassment. My family have incurred 2 flat tyres from potholes over Christmas - the economy is suffering. The extra money is welcomed, but overdue.
Capital Expenditure	Close offices not longer viable due to staff 'working' at home. Review working at home to ensure the work is being done
Racecourse parking charging	This is unacceptable as the % of HMO in NN1 is massively larger than any other postcode. We only have street parking and with the hmo it's crazy at night. Charging for this will encourage bad practices and is unfair on ALL residents.
Partially or unfunded schemes	Will there be further public consultation for partially funded and unfunded projects?
Fully funded Schemes	Money must be specifically set aside to finance improved bus services, especially where rural transport is minimal or none existent
All	Your road building and road maintenance programs are a joke. New schemes are I'll thought it and always go over budget and money spent on Pothole repairs wasted as the works are inadequate and not inspected leading to the need to continually revisit.
Highways Maintenance	I have no confidence this money will be spent wisely as the condition of our roads is awful and all that is done is to fill the worst pot holes if we are lucky.
Roads and potholes	This definitely needs addressing as some roads are in a dreadful state
	agree with improving the roads
Refuse	Reducing the waste collections just will not work - it will create more costs eventually through pest control, fly tipping, neighbourhood disputes in communal refuse areas.
Roads	This has to be a major priority
Mending potholes	The current system is not working whoever the contractor is they are making a fortune they only do a temporary repair then get called back a short time after because it has failed a more permanent solution needs to be found to prevent this complete waste of tax payers money. Someone should be overseeing these repairs to ensure they are done right first time around, this would save a lot of wasted money.
Reduce rubbish collection to once every 3 weeks	Ridiculous idea. The hotter weather and longer interval between collections will increase insect and maggot numbers. Some families struggle to keep refuse in one bin

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	without having to try to fit more in. This will result in more black sacks being dumped which will have to be cleared up. False economy
Capital spending and potholes	In these times I feel wnc should be holding back on large expenditure. Potholes,well that really is a joke.
Roads	Pot holes need to be sorted as getting worse and dangerous
Local Road Improvement	For years West Northamptonshire Council have been filling in potholes which last a few months then break open again even bigger and more dangerous. It is about time serious road surfacing takes place all over the County using contractors whose work means the road re-surfaced will last for a good number of years.
Transport	Why does the funding for "potholes" (presumably repairing them rather than manufacturing them?) exactly match the secondary funding line Highways Maintenance Block -Needs? (Disconcertingly the anomaly exists in each financial year shown) Furthermore for road funding for maintenance/repairs why isn't there a contractual clawback facility against the original contractors against original specified lifetime expectancy of the original or resealed roads?
improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities	Free use of recreational parks will do this! Yet you are set on increasing parking fees and reducing the availability of these facilities. You are wrong
	Need to see some positive results
Road improvements	Desperately required in our local area.
Bulk furniture removal	I think it should be pruced fairly iem the removal of fridges, lounge suites, bulky items.
CAPITAL PROGRAMME	no comment
All schemes	I agree that more spend to improve local roads is urgently needed. I also agree that using some public health funding for the year ahead to progress a range of schemes aimed at improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities, and continuing to support communities through financial difficulties around the cost of living is much needed. However do we really need to increase or introduce charges for parking in for example our local parks? How does this help with the cost of living crisis and resident's health and wellbeing? Simply stated, it doesn't and that is disappointing!
Road Maintenance	I had a very serious accident due to a pothole. The roads are becoming some of the worst in the country.
Support for communities	Is the town centre community not as important as the others in the county? Why are we the only ones being charged for the 'privilege' of living and working in the town centre?
Road Maintenance/Potholes	Welcome more funding for road maintenance, particularly in more rural parts of the district as there are so many repeat potholes and deteriorated roads that need resurfacing/significant maintenance.

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Mending Pot Holes	The Council should consider a programme of repairing the whole length of some roads rather than just the 'pot holes' which reach the depth which require filling. Ad hoc repairs will cost more in the longer term as they are likely to require multiple repairs, whereas a complete section of road repair will last for years.
Improving wellbeing	How can you improve wellbeing if people can't visit parks due to very high parking costs?
Pot holes	Fix the pot holes instead of using money to find your own pocket
	If you want to improve health and well-being as stated above why are you increasingly parking charges st country parks abd the race course
Government Cost of living scheme & fixing potholes	Needs to be more easily accessible. You know who is on what benefits therefore it shouldn't need to be applied for and further degrade residents. The state of the roads is now untenable and causes damage to people's vehicles. You need to invest in decent quality materials and potential resurface roads as they are now beyond simple patch work!
	Fund schools for swimming lessons
All	As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
	N/a
Prudential borrowing	Why are you proposing to borrow £86mn, what's the payback?
	Turn street lights back on
	No comments - as no details given in appendix e
	Please fix the potholes
All	I don't think you have provided enough information on the schemes and how you propose to spend the £83.6m for me to comment on one particular scheme. You have indicated that this is still at the draft stage. I would like to see more details at scheme level before I can comment
	It would be good to see what capital projects are being proposed - couldn't find it anywhere
Potholes and Market Square revamp.	Some roads in and around Northampton are like a slalom course. The repairs are poor and break up quickly. The Market Square revamp, in my view is a complete waste of over £8 million! It used to be a GREAT place but now isn't worth the visit plus with the increased parking charges, again, another reason not to visit!
Pot hole repair.	Were the repairs on pot holes to be done correctly by contractors this wouldn't be a recurring problem. Most works carried out are shoddy at best and a waste of public funds.
none	
Potholes	These urgently need addressing. The roads are a disgrace in the district

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Roads and potholes	To be honest I don't even know how any increase will provide what is needed to improve the roads surfaces across the county. They are absolutely appalling and any patching works that are done seem to only be a patch and then need doing again a few months later or deeper holes appear where the works were patched. I honest don't know how this can be improved
	Hard to comment on schemes when the information provided is so sparse and lacks clarity
Pot holes	Left to long should have been addressed sooner and are you using out sourced contractors very expensive... is there a tendering process and how much compensation did you pay for claims
Inequality Across the Council Areas	I feel the those of us living in the former SNC area are suffering in order to cover the huge debt the ineptitude of the Northampton Councillors has left the area with and because we're expected to 'level up' with the third area. Before spending more money, there needs to be a cull of those responsible - without a golden handshake - and an effort needs to be made to work smarter!
Pothole mending	This is a huge problem and definitely need a plan and money to help.
	Just sort the roads out. They are a disgrace.
Car Parking Fees and Charges	The proposal to increase both on street parking and car park charges in Northampton at a time when footfall is declining and local businesses are facing increasing cost pressures across the board is hugely negative and counter productive and will result in fewer consumers and thereby more businesses failing, increasing empty shop fronts, making the Town Centre less attractive to visitors and consumers. This simply furls the downward spiral of the Town Centre. Parking should not be free, but it should be competitive to other regional offerings and creative in stimulating consumers to make a trip to the Town Centre attractive e.g. proof of parking provides discount off coffee/convenience food scheme.
	What happened to all the funded provided byb the house builders in South Northants, these were to be made available to improve the local infrastructure, where has all this funding gone?
Road repairs	Roads are in a very poor state, often repairs last a very short time. Rural areas seem worse. Perhaps not on the horizon for a council concentrating on Northampton at the cost of any interest or understanding of the many rural areas
Roads	Bad enough around here. Perhaps use road tax for the road rather than residents paying for it
Pot holes	4,7 million for pot holes seems a lot ? The council Miss manage their money
Draft general fund capital program	I completely agree with this proposal

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	If you truly care for locals well being start making decisions that will benefit locals not take away from them.
road repairs	The council should be more careful when they go out to tender for road repair. The A43 has been closed at night for about six months on 2022, for resurfacing, and it is forecast to be closed again in 2023 to do the job again, obviously not done properly the first time. I know this is a Highways issue, but the same applies.
	I don't feel qualified to comment on this, except to note that some roads, even major roads such as A45, are in a bad state!
Potholes	Their existence is a disgrace and real lack of good governance by the council. Fix them all quickly.
Pot holes,	Don't see any improvement, don't see anything in this list which my money is spent on which has had any effect .
Roads	Review the contracts for the providers and see how many times they are redoing the same potholes. If they are not repaired properly and sealed, they reappear. Look to using recycled plastic for road repairs. Claim more from Highways for diversionary damage.
Potholes Fund	I'm fully supportive of this proposal. The local roads are a danger to road users and need immediate fixing.
Roads	£12.2 million for roads. This is peanuts. Yes we've had extreme weather frost, snow heavy rain which have impacted on the roads. You are just papering over the cracks. The roads need robust surface not cheap tarmac that comes up the following day.
	Pot holes etc should have been sorted out years ago The problem with Northampton is we have had too many years of Tory miss management
Potholes	The state of Northamptonshire's roads due to potholes and poor patching declines year on year
Closure of spinneyfields	Instead of closing facilities community rehab needs to be retained. It's cheaper than providing care individually if undertaken properly. It's also disgraceful that the Evelyn Wright home is going to rack and ruin . Older people need more thought .
Bus , potholes/roads	If you remove the funding for busses then they will be stopped and this has 2 effects, more people fully isolated and unable to access shops etc with a knock on if more vehicles on the already poor roads Mending potholes is fine when you do them but they don't last so be better to patch a larger area or resurface properly not just tar and pebbles on top of a bad road, it don't work, it's a plaster not a permanent repair
	Star Chamber. Typical mediaeval mindset I guess
Potholes Fund	When I drive around Nthants I think you need to increase road funding significantly or find a new way of resurfacing the roads like using recycled materials I believe there is a company in New York that has reduced the cost of

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	resurfacing by over 50%. Taking on new technology can improve the system dramatically.
All capital spending	The council should stop wasting money that it does not have on schemes to name parts of the town as quarters, eg cultural quarter. This does not address the general state of the town, or the parts of the county where the infrastructure is creaking due to lack of repair, roads are crumbling and problems that are reported take months to be resolved. Too much money is being wasted on vanity projects.
Potholes	Too little too late the road infrastructure is crumbling and creating dangerous conditions where looking out for potholes becomes a detriment to general road and traffic awareness especially at night!
Capital schemes	£4700000 to fill potholes? What are you filling them with?
Potholes	Repair them properly
Increase in Town Centre Parking Charges	Strongly disagree with any increase in car parking charges in Northampton Town centre. Businesses in the town are desperately struggling to remain in business and any deterrent such as this will reduce footfall even further. How the Council can suggest anything so negative and detrimental to the shoppers, clients and businesses owners makes no sense and cannot happen.
Potholes	Every year the Council say they will fix the pot hole problem but it gets worse year on year
	Stick to the essentials like pot holes and health and not unnecessary changes
Appendix E	This appendix doesn't give any detail of schemes so it is impossible to comment. The figures on the various lines are random and without context, rendering this question a farce.
	No comment
	There is minimal detail given about consideration of the impact the spending plans will have on climate and the environment. This is not acceptable - all capital spending projects should thoroughly examine how they affect the ability of the council and West Northants as a whole, to achieve a clean, safe sustainable future for all residents.
All	The entire budget proposal includes almost no reference that spending plans have been assessed in terms of their impact on the climate and ecological emergency. It is critical this is addressed and I understand that plans are in place to implement a system which will quantify the impact of capital projects on greenhouse gas emissions. This needs to be in place as quickly as possible - spending now that fails to acknowledge the climate crisis simply increases the scale of the work required to deliver on carbon emissions and sustainability targets.
Potholes	The roads are an embarrassing liability and dangerous for all road users..sort them out!

Name of scheme(s)	Comment
Potholes	Approve of this allocation. The county has many roads, inc. A roads which have more potholes than good tarmac on them.
Pot holes.	I've not seen any potholes in Roade and surrounding areas fixed unless they got to the point that they damaged vehicles.
?	There is not enough information on Appendix E to make an informed opinion or to comment about particular schemes.
No comments	
Roadwork	The drivers pay tax on the vehicle and expect to have safe road, hence it should be funded from there then any additional charges on council pupil
[name]	Should not increase
	Where are the details?
Improving local roads. Reducing health inequalities. Support for local communities	<p>Many of our roads &amp; footpaths have dangerous potholes, which not only damage cars, are a hazard for cyclists, &amp; also a trip hazard for pedestrians, so I agree that more needs to be spent on their repair. However, rather than continually patching areas, it would be more sensible to re do a whole stretch of a road or pavement, as patches, rarely last long. Reducing health inequalities - this should be a priority, especially where new housing has been built but there is no capacity for an increase in GP surgeries, dentists &amp; mental health provision.</p> <p>Support for local communities - this should be given to the many local groups who are providing Foodbanks, Food clubs, Gardening clubs where people can learn to grow vegetables &amp; also get support with their wellbeing. Cookery groups, clubs for pensioners, help for those of any age who are feeling excluded due to the rises in the cost of living, which prevent social activities. Most of these groups are run by a small number of volunteers, &amp; if funded for their rent &amp; heating, could increase the work they do without having to constantly apply for charitable funding. Eg FISH - food &amp; fun in school holidays, Spencer Contact - which provides free furniture &amp; other goods for individuals who move from homelessness into accommodation, (currently a 2 month waiting list) Growing Together which provides a lot of activities for people, especially children, &amp; Weston Favell Foodbank, who are needing a new base to enable the 300% increase in customers to be able to receive their parcels &amp; advice in a timely manner. These are just a few of the schemes I know of personally.</p>
Roads	<p>Our roads are a disgrace blocked drain overgrown hedges poor tree management.</p> <p>The roads surfaces are 3rd world</p>
Market Square redevelopment	In the light of the extreme pressures on the budget, it appears very wasteful to spend money on repaving the market square and providing a water feature. Neither measure is going to revitalise business in the town centre.



Name of scheme(s)	Comment
	The money could be far better spent supporting co-operative start ups.
Roads	Hope the roads will be repaired properly and not just bodged up with poor pot hole repair and gravel top dressing.
Potholes	The roads and pavements around the area have been a disgrace for years not just in this crisis we are now in. Our local gp service was taken away years ago too so extra money for this probably wouldn't go to the right area. Or if it did it would make very little difference. We need our gp service back in the village and roads/ paving needs to be fixed and kept on top of.
All	Only deliver schemes that are 100% grant funded or safety related, do not borrow money for vanity schemes
pot holes	driving around the rural roads in West Northamptonshire it is clear that this a key area where money needs to be spent
60 bus	Don't get rid of the bus services
	The appendix does not detail what the funding will be spent on.

## Reviewing Services

The Council is constantly striving to make services more efficient whilst saving taxpayers money and protect critical services by ensuring we apply good practice to the delivery of our services.

We are seeking to minimise spare capacity, review some services that are currently operating above statutory minimum standards and maximise the efficiency of services such as waste collections rounds.

These proposals include:

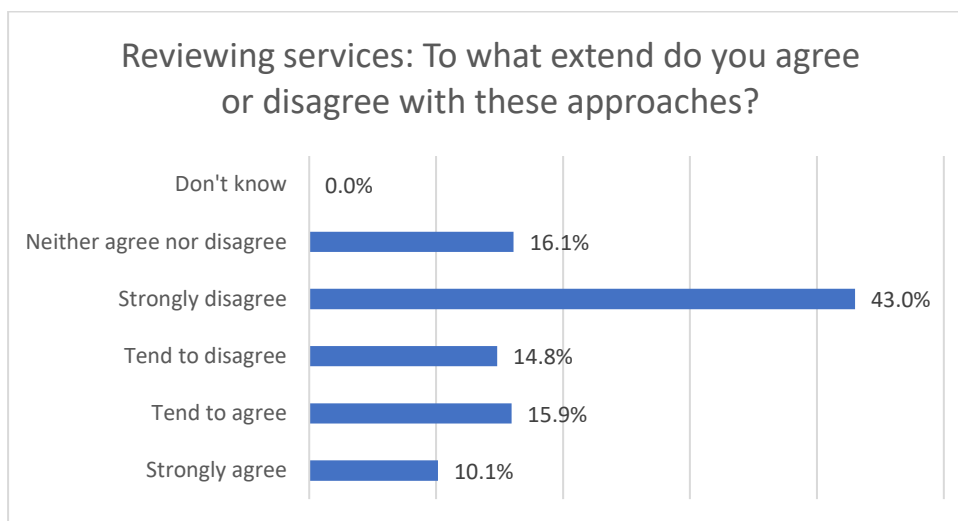
- A plan to review the current Home to School transport policy in the new year to determine the level of service that should be determined over and above the statutory minimum level. This will be subject to a separate consultation exercise once the review concludes with recommendations.
- Implementing a three weekly residual household waste collection service in some parts of Northampton and across the South Northants area to align it with the approach taken in the Daventry area of West Northants in order to reduce costs and take a more efficient approach to the collection of Household Waste.

### 11.To what extent do you agree or disagree with these approaches?

There were 622 responses to this question.

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Strongly agree	63	10.1%
Tend to agree	99	15.9%
Tend to disagree	92	14.8%
Strongly disagree	267	43.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	100	16.1%

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Don't know	0	0.0%



**12.If you have any comments on proposals to review services, please give us your views below:**

There were 482 responses to this question.

Strongly agree / tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daventry have been on 3 weekly waste collections for a while and this has worked. Bigger bins would need to be provided to families with children in nappies.</li> <li>• I agree with the 3 weekly waste system, as a current user of this it works fine and is very efficient.</li> <li>• It is difficult to comment of just a proposal to review something but home to school transport should be looked at as it seems mad to be paying extortionate amounts to taxi and private hire firms to transport children whose parents/ carers have access to vehicles and in many cases vehicles paid for or subsidised by WNC. 3 weekly bin collections are fine. I am in the Daventry Area and so used to it. You learn to manage it. All areas across WNC should be consistent.</li> <li>• Households with over 4 people in will complain they need general waste collected more than every 3 weeks- Give them the option to pay to have it collected every 2 weeks, But they have to pay.</li> <li>• Home to School Transport should not be covered by the local council but be the responsibility of the parent to ensure the delivery of each child safely to school. I had to get my child to school without assistance as did my parents with me and my siblings. I have worked in education where I witnessed taxis waiting to collect students from school going in the same direction as others, but still only having one student per vehicle. Discussions with schools should be held to determine what assistance they can provide as nearly all secondary schools within the county have their own minibus for use.</li> <li>• I believe that children should be allocated a place at their nearest school and if their parents wish to send them to another it should be up to them to get the children to school and back, not the Council</li> </ul>

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- Will the additional revenue generated by reducing waste collections be something that is used for more enforcement against fly tipping? Some areas are already under resourced and waste is everywhere. We should continue to support those who need our help the most - home to school transport is essential for some families who are already exposed to excessive costs because their child has 'special needs' - the price of everything sky rockets. Why would we penalize this vulnerable group, when we want to be seen as a caring council?
- You cannot increase the collection of garden waste too three weeks and increase cost.
- Not fair to residents in Daventry area subsidizing for extra waste collections in Northampton and South Northamptonshire
- the collections work well in Daventry. I dont have any issues with bin collections and i have a family of 4
- A review to also consider ensuring children can get to school and providing help to those struggling in both short and long term. For example, even a relatively wealthy family could apply for help over a few days - even if means tested and payment is required. A less fortunate family who, for example, can no longer afford a car, should be given help to ensure children get the education they need. To be clear, I feel extra funding should be applied here to ensure children get an education.
- Please do not forget the difficulties that poorer households are facing currently, especially those with children at school incurring huge increases in their outgoings.
- 3 week collection for general waste seems a good idea - we need to encourage further reduction of this. I would prefer that garden waste could be kept at a lower cost if we save money in household waste.
- H2S is a very simple service to improve, in my 15 assignments I've averaged 15% first year savings, 25% second year, by addressing how routes are designed, how SEND & able people better move. Policy is rarely the cause of costs, it's the deviation from policy that is expensive. (I can prove this, one authority was reviewing P, when 97% of decisions were over and above P)
- Three weekly collections should be easy, I personally Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle 99% of household waste. That would be more if you recycled plastic film & kitchen paper. Implementing this is probably far easier than you'd believe! Look also at FLEET, I've enabled massive capital and revenue fleet savings on many occasions, especially related to post council unifications.
- Everyone should have the same household collections. We all pay for what should be an equal service. Shame that some of the money goes on people who really don't deserve it because they are lazy and think they are entitled. Have no problem paying for those in genuine need who are prepared to help themselves, rather than those who help themselves because they are greedy / lazy
- Everything should be the same all over the area
- A 3 weekly collection for residual waste is not unheard of and with separate food waste collections and a full recycling service should be fully acceptable. But we are told nothing about the effectiveness of the existing scheme in Daventry or the measures planned to make sure that the new system is properly supported by other waste activities including public information and reassurance.
- The service is in disarray

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- 3 weekly bin collections should be introduced across West Northants
- No comments
- In the summer this will lead to an increase in pests. A family can only just cope with 2 weekly collections.
- support is needed in these areas
- SEE PREVIOUS It is all about transparency, good governance and above all, we are here to serve. So it is clear that the reviews must take place and only when all the facts are in front of cabinet, can a decision be made. I am not opposed to put a provision as we need a balanced budget but we should keep an eagle eye until the true cost is known.
- upping fees and reducing services is not acceptable"levelling up"" fees means more efficient former council areas are punished
- If you can make it work effectively for residents!!
- living in the Daventry district, I note that most bins are not even 2/3 full come emptying time (ask your bin men), collection intervals could be extended further, you could supply larger bins to those that don't cope with it, all you really need to do is recycle at home to avoid it, and incidentally your recycling sucks you used to to take a far wider range of things, what's happed there bit of a large backwards step.
- We need waste to be collected more coming once a week for recycling one week and waste the other our bins get filled quicker and the bin is too small
- If all areas are run by 1 authority the rules should be the same.
- I am concerned about the implications for families affected, whilst also recognising that a review is important.
- Review overmanning of services to fix roads and pavements - 5 people and three vans to fix a small issue on the pavement in Long Buckby, which had to be re-repaired again because the 5 people and three vans didn't do the job properly in the 1st place.
- I work for a [place] Council who have a weak corporate strategy, weak leadership and waste money on ill thought out schemes. I have no problem paying extra council tax to fund essential services. I hope that the scrutiny and financial planning at West Northants is more robust than I witness everyday. It seems too easy for Councils to get away with making irrational and poorly conceived projects. I would like to think your staff are better and processes more robust.
- Providing transport to schools is very important for rural areas. Waste collection should be the same across all areas
- Should be for all areas of the Council, not just some as unfair.
- I believe you should collect rubbish every 10 days and recycle every 10 days or have an area, where possible, at the end of every street (within 100m) where rubbish can be taken so council can collect from there.
- If you are increasing council tax then I strongly disagree. I cannot pay more to get less. If you reduce the council tax then yes.
- 3 weekly refuse collection.....no you will have more tipping of rubbish on street still needs to be weekly, maybe 2 weekly in winter as less garden rubbish.
- Bus services should be provide to link communities Bin collection every three weeks madness!
- It's easier for a couple with sulo bins and adequate recycling but more of a struggle if you have a large family or live in a terrace house/flat using black bin bags.

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- I am in favour of efficiency, but I think it's important not to attach too much importance to statutory minimum levels in deciding this - what looks like inefficiency from the outside, could be important 'slack' in the system which is necessary to cope with increased demand, or to allow work that isn't a day-to-day priority but is vital for a sustainable service in the long term (eg staff training, organising & maintaining equipment & resources, staff wellbeing etc). This has been an issue in the health service and in schools, and I'm sure will be an issue in any service that doesn't have completely uniform demand all the time.
- Should have been done from day 1 of the new council
- The streets in the town centre and Kingsthorpe are strewn with rubbish due to the stupid practice of leaving plastic refuse bags out which are ripped open by cats and foxes . I live in the Daventry area which has a three weekly bin collection. We have ended up taking household waste to the tip ourselves. Our bins stink in the summer and there is an increase in maggots and flies which is a potential health hazard. I also refuse to pay extra for garden waste collection. When we miss a bin collection due to going on holiday etc the rubbish can sit in our bin for up to six weeks.
- where it is possible to obtain efficiencies in processes these should be maximised
- On the waste front, if it works in Daventry area already and you are one council, just do it.
- Home to School Transport appears to have been leaking money for some time and is in urgent need of review. It makes sense to align the residual household waste collection in all areas.
- In favour of standardising the frequency of general waste collections, on the basis that this may encourage recycling.
- It is not appropriate to have waste picked up every 3 weeks, during extremely hot weather, waste been left for such a long period of time is a health and safety issue, and will attract rodents and other animals
- The waste collection routine in Daventry works well in my opinion despite its detractors when first implemented.
- The 3 weekly collection has been proven to work.
- Food waste needs to be collected weekly due to the health hazard it presents Waste for recycling would unfortunately exceed the capacity of the boxes currently provided for recycling The council and government need to work with businesses and shops to decrease the amount of packaging which contributes to the large amount of household waste for recycling
- Having been living with the 3 weekly general waste collection for a few years now we find it completely acceptable and our black bin is generally less than 1/2 full at the end of 3 weeks for the family of 4. the other collections make up for this.
- You must supply home to school transport especially to vulnerable children
- Living in a part of Northampton that comes under Daventry collection I've found that the 3 weekly household collection works well, although many would require the larger capacity bin for this if of large households or have young children

Neither agree nor disagree

-

Neither agree nor disagree

- As a non-resident of the authority area I don't have a view on this personally as it doesn't affect me. However, that being said, it will not be well received and people will undoubtedly have a problem and note that it may cause an increase in fly tipping, or increase in visits to the local tips if people can get to them...which many can't.
- leave bins as they are - you are already reducing the 240l bin to 180l at any given opportunity and charging for green waste - if you squeeze this further you will start to get more fly tipping or people stealing bins - which has already been happening. i know very little of the school transport but i am sure that unless someone lives in a village with out a school and has no car then they should not need it - rather than being on benefits and choosing a different school to the nearest and being lazy! Save money on benefits and stop the fraud!!! Same with council tax and single person discount - check who owns properties and spend resources here - this will save a huge amount of benefits and generate revenue.
- There is not enough information to be able to form a view on this. A 'review' could mean anything.
- Three weekly residual waste collections are a retrograde step. Paying more and getting less damages the faith people have in public services. Fly tipping and use of recycling centres will increase as a result of this. Daventry should go back to fortnightly collections instead. Not every service has to be stripped to the lowest common denominator.
- I'm surprised there is any spare capacity - the Council has been making annual efficiency savings since before the millennium as central government grabs more and more control.
- I am all for efficiency!
- I imagine some general waste bins are a health hazard after three weeks, dirty nappies etc, and if people are away on collection day that is six weeks before collection.
- Less rubbish collections will increase fly tipping and rats. Surely not cost effective, just puts in place more costs in other departments.
- Some larger households may struggle with a 3-weekly waste collection service but the idea has some merit.
- 3 weekly residual waste collections - I think bin capacity should be increased from 180l to 240l for households with 4 residents (with one or less children in nappies)
- Parents and carers should do the transport if they have access to a mobility funded vehicle . Cut down on the money wasted on taxis . This is double funding . 3 weekly rubbish collection ... Rats
- No comment
- Really...there are 15 documents in that link. How can you expect most people to read, digest and understand all that information? You should be more transparent. No wonder people feel like WNC are hiding things. As a resident who will likely get less waste removal (as you go from 2 to 3 week collection), why is garden waste being increased by such a large amount? Can you not see that residents will feel like they have lost out and are getting less for more money? Why don't you harmonise Daventry to be two weekly and keep everything consistent? You absolutely know that waste/garden collection is such an emotive topic, it feels like you are deliberately trying to prod the bear!
- The Home to School Transport Policy needs to cover all rural transport

Neither agree nor disagree

- Home to School transport needs to be done as cost efficiently as possible and disagree with 3 weeks between household waste as it will impact residents unnecessarily
- Can see more fly tipping happening in areas affected with household waste collection schemes changing.
- Perhaps different cadence of refuse collection depending on time of year - eg more frequent than this in the summer
- Almost impossible to discern the impact or intent of the proposals from the provided information. Household waste collection should not be reduced as this will likely result in an increase of flytipping.
- The 3 weekly cycle will not work for larger households and families and they should not be disadvantaged because of the Council's seeming inability to balance the books.
- Three weekly refuse collection is not viable for parents with young children.
- Needs to be consistent across all areas - cant just be 'part' of Northampton but all of other areas.
- Just dont let the lorries block village roads during rush hour
- Home to school transport. I can easily get my children to school in the morning, on my way to work. I can't however pick them up at 3.15 as I am still at work. This will be the problem faced by many parents if provision of home to school transport provision is reduced.
- I am interested in the Treasury funding changes and would like to understand more about how WSCC use their Treasury function. Similarly I am interested in the impact of central government directives in respect of education (changes to the central funding block) and also impact of adult social care. I was slightly surprised in the allocation of legal services in respect of SEND tribunal cases. If WSCC were to approach SEN in a more reasonable/different way and not be so defensive and aggressive in resolving issues with educational professionals and parents then the need to go to tribunals would not be so great. I object to three weekly residual household waste collection if you are planning to increase council tax by 4.99%. Either increase council tax OR change collection frequency but NOT both. This would be unreasonable.
- During School runs the roads are jammed! Doing something to assist this would remove a large number of cars from the roads, or if not will make mornings and afternoons chaos! Regarding waste, living on my own my twice weekly general waste is minimal to the degree i only end up with a small amount that most times goes in someone else's bin. however, i manage to recycle a lot so going from 2 weekly to 3 weekly would be counterproductive!
- As long as household refuse collection is not affected in Central Northampton where business and residential use the same spaces. Businesses would be negatively affected if house refuse on the streets became an issue
- I'll get to the stage soon where I can't put my bin out - too far to the roadside. No local help available.
- Once again. I would to see the proposed plans and consultation as I have no faith in this councils judgement or decisions.
- Three weekly is acceptable if the bins are going to be larger. Encourage recycling making that a weekly collection. Home to school Transport affects mainly SEN children. Unacceptable to put more pressure on these vulnerable families
- It doesn't affect me so I don't know enough to comment

#### Neither agree nor disagree

- If you reduce costs then any reductions need to be passed on to us not still out up the following year
- Very vague bundling this together. Agree that 3 weekly residual waste collection is sensible considering the little that goes in our bin.
- As to home to school. Any transport for rural schools should be supported. No support should be given to pupils living within the town. All urban/suburban pupils should live within walking distance of their school.
- Before reducing waste collection services have you looked at figures in locations that have already done this for increases in street cleaning, fly tipping and other waste services? Reducing waste collections without giving people the option of larger bins or low effort ways of reducing waste will result in increased fly tipping and bin overflow costing more to resolve.
- The appendices are difficult to understand

#### Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- A 3 week black bin collection would be ideal for those of us who recycle, blue bins need emptying every 2 weeks as do the green bins. I would not pay £55 a year to have my green bin emptied once every 3 weeks. Also this should be for everyone in Northampton not just some. If you do this there is going to be more flytipping of rubbish.
- The policies of the Home to School service are not the problem it is people not sticking to the policies and poor planning and contract management partly due to use of IT systems that are not fit for purpose.
- switching to 3 weekly refuse collections will mean, especially in the warmer months, foul smells as waste rots in wheelie bins, and unless the size of wheelie bins are increased there is a likelihood that more people will fly tip as they have no space in their bins, or bins overflowing both of which with food starting to rot could encourage vermin
- Bin collection 3 weekly will only lead to more fly tipping. On top of that if youre a terraced property you still get a weekly collection so would be being victimised for having a larger property by paying more in council tax and then getting LESS services
- The bins are already overflowing and smelling during summer months, the proposal to make us have another week between collections is a health concern. I think this will increase the issues with maggots, smell and vermin. We should be given larger bins or extra bins to ensure that all waste can be contained safely prior to being collected.
- People need waste collecting more often than 3 weekly. It will be an environmental hazard surely, in the hot months. It will increase fly tipping and be disgusting.
- Having waste collected regularly isnt a luxury
- Household waste collection must remain unchanged as collecting the waste every 3 weeks will result in rubbish being dumped in many inappropriate places as people will have no space at homes. This will then result in more money spent on cleaning the areas. Not sure if money saved on fuel will be greater than money spent on the issue rectification
- Further information on the proposals can be found within Appendices B1 to B7' - a more direct link would have been appreciated, this is just a list of generically titled documents. There is only B1-B5, with 5x B4s with slightly different titles and 2x Bs with no numbers. Do not generally provide further information. 1. Looking for waste collection change information: Eventually found the following on B4



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

(Policies and Procedures) - doesn't really provide more information: 'Review collection arrangements in some areas of West Northants that are currently not a three weekly collection cycle' . Hardly providing 'further information'. 2. Pension on B4 (Policies and Procedures): 'Following the receipt of the Councils Pension Funds Triannual valuation and actuarial advice, a much improved funding position means that the council is able to reduced its contribution rate by 3% to ensure an optimum level of resources are invested in the fund.' What's been 'much improved' your news is all about difficult funding position and a funding gap. Any changes to pensions funding are worrying. 3. HRWC on B4 (Policies and Procedures)'Efficiencies in HWRC operations, as part of the wider development of the WNC waste strategy which will consider how many sites are required to serve the residents of WNC and where they should be located' I'd like to think you're considering more but I suspect you mean fewer. We only have 6 nicely spread in all areas of the authority. Consider also potential individual travel increase and difficulty in waste disposal if you centralise away from your borders. Combined with changes to waste collection and increased £ for garden waste you are increasing risk of dumping or just leaving a pile in the garden / street. 4. Leave the Library Service alone. You have reduced it to a minimal service already. Look elsewhere for your savings. It delivers a lot and costs you comparatively nowt. B4 (Policies and Procedures): 'Reduce book fund by £45K which will be a £22.5k saving for each authority.

- I agree with the review of the home to school transport policy. there may be reasonable adjustments in terms of provision on personal budgets/public transport cards and independent travel training which can reduce costs. But this should be implemented if it is in the best interests and safety for the pupils, not just as a cost cutting exercise.
- I have concerns about the proposal to reduce waste collections to three weekly intervals. In my own experience my bins are full by the time the fortnightly collection is due. I diligently recycle and use my food waste bin. I recycle and sell on or donate items which do not need to go to landfill.
- I feel if waste collections are reduced there will be increased instances of fly tipping and general waste will be left in the streets to encourage rodents.
- 3 weeks to empty bins in the summer? Mine are both full after 2 weeks! What about the smell and the flies. It will just encourage flytipping and vermin.
- I don't understand why the school transport policy means a car and a chaperone is needed for each pupil. Do they sit in a classroom on their own? No. Out of school do they not socialise? I know there are a few exceptions, but the majority IMO are just taking advantage of a trendy condition that didn't occur 30 years ago
- I would not want to see a reduction in the level of school transport service, this is a vital facility for pupils in rural areas where there is no public transport.
- The waste collection service works very well as it is. If it's not broke, don't fix it!
- Bin collections should remain as they are, shouldn't level down to Daventry levels as they pay less they should get less, I already see neighbours bins filled after two weeks this will encourage fly tying etc. again you seem to ask us to pay more in increases and give less back
- School transport- rural villages already struggle with no public transport - the school service is the only way many youngsters can get to school.
- Reducing waste collection services, will increase vermin, flies and fly tipping.
- This is a disgraceful and completely unacceptable step. I totally disagree with it
- Completely absurd - how dare you feel that social issues that affect the entire population we are going use huge, unreasonable amounts getting kids to school

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Implementing a three weekly residual household waste collection service - bin sizes and not large enough to cope with a 3 weekly collection. Also in the summer bins can smell very quickly, and cause more rats.
- I would not be happy with a 3 weekly garden waste collection if I am still having to pay the same amount of money for a reduction in services. It could also lead to an increase in flytipping garden waste. 3 weeks is too long to wait for a collection in spring and summer
- This is going to lead to a build of rubbish and given the increase in flytipping and the slow prosecution of these this suggestion should not even be under consideration
- Residents in South Northants already have high levels of recycling. For families with a normal size bin this will not be adequate for 3 weeks and will be a health hazard in summer
- Three weekly bin collection is not enough
- Waste bins should be collected weekly. All councils implemented fortnightly but the smell at the height of summer is appalling. It cannot be healthy & encourages pests. Every three weeks would be totally unacceptable.
- Strongly disagree with the proposal to reduce my area (former SNC) bin collection and increase the garden waste charges. How about you review the significant amount of money wasted by internal activities and find ways to increase internal efficiencies, rather than expect residents to pay more. The tax payer can only pay for so much - councillors will be held to account for their failings at the ballot box.
- As noted earlier, this seems to be an un-necessary change - some households with four + residents will really struggle here. At SNC the bin is 180 L slimline - Daventry still has the large bins to cope with a three weekly collection. Are there any plans to allow extra capacity for those households who need it?
- The scrapping of two weekly waste collection will increase fly tipping especially if the council decide to reduce the opening times of tips.
- there will be an increase in litter and fly tipping and resulting increased costs to the council for this additional 'clear up'
- Northamptonshire will no longer be the rose of the shires as it fills with waste
- Some of the streets in Northampton are always full of bin bags ect making the collection every 3 week is just going to increase the mess and infestation of the current rodent problem in northampton
- Having waste removed on a regular basis is a fundamental requirement. Extending this to a 3 week period is ridiculous.
- The link to Appendix B1 to B7 does not work and am unable to see the rational for the said proposals. However, I strongly object to the introduction of a 3 week cycle for refuse collection
- I would like to be informed separately in detail, without the need to trawl through reams of Appendices, of the proposals to decrease the periodicity of household waste collections and the exact areas this applies to, before making any comment. In my street (in New Duston), some waste bins are put out for collection already overflowing every two weeks. to limit collection frequency to every three weeks does not bear thinking about, unless we are all provided with much larger bins.
- Review of waste disposal- proposals are not clear. My reading is that in some areas of WNC there is 3 weekly collections which the council want all areas to move to, as compared with 2 week collections. Personally that will have a negative impact on my ability to recycle- and generally many large household will struggle to dispose of their refuse generated in a 3 week period.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- 3 weekly collection seems to me unrealistic, Many of the bins in my area seem to be full to overflowing after 2 weeks
- A 3 weekly general waste collection will again create more Fly tipping which is already rife in this area. The more expensive and difficult that you make it to dispose of rubbish the more fly tipping you create. Landlords of all the HMO's should also be made to pay for the tipping from their houses instead of the rest of us having to pay for it too!
- Never saw a saving when weekly went to 2 weekly perhaps an option to opt out of you waste collections would be an option.
- 3 weeks of rubbish in the summer is crazy
- Absolutely not, a three week service. Two weeks is bad enough in warm weather with maggots and insects/rodents. Those with bags will attract more vermin, more hazards within their gardens, and lead to an increase of fly tipping.
- Start encouraging recycling, current system is just resulting. In people fly tipping
- You should be making daventry more regular, I have the biggest recycling bin but each cycle end up having to put recycling in my black bin because I don't have the space. Also black bin not being collected for 3 weeks causes smells and attracts pests
- Fortnightly collections with both the recycle and black bins are always full. There is a risk of waste overflow encouraging vermin especially in the warmer months. It could also mean an increase of fly tipping. It is not efficient for homeowners at all and not clear which parts of Northampton this affects. If you are increasing our council tax, this shouldn't mean a reduction of services such as bin collection.
- The move to 3 weekly will lead to a build up of waste with overspill you get vermin the only way this would work if bigger bins are provided
- If you wish to reduce to three weekly rubbish collections then we need larger recycling bins!! They are already full at two weeks!!
- All this will achieve is more fly tipping and unsanitary conditions.
- Kids in education to18 but I have to pay for the school bus from 16. Yet another opportunity to make money from us. Not poor enough to claim benefits but can hardly afford to pay £1200 for 2 kids.
- I struggle to get my waste in a large bin with the current 2 weekly collection going to 3 weeks will mean I needs a 2nd bin. Or will have to put bin bags out with my collection. I have a disabled adult in my house that with his needs creates waste. My bin will smell its likely to be a health hazard. Are we turning into a 3rd world nation. Its an appalling idea.
- If you start empty bins every 3 weeks then rubbish will be fly tipped. As people don't all have wheelie bins to store 3 weeks rubbish!
- And I'm not paying extra money for a service you should already be paid to do.
- Therefore my garden waste will be dumped out side in the park.
- You say you do these things to save money yet are rates are increased every year regardless.
- Why not bring the Daventry into line with Northampton, instead of the other way around? Oh yes, money grubbing as usual.
- A three weekly service for Black waste is unacceptable. Again this will lead to dumping of waste in the countryside.
- 3 weekly collection of bins is unhygienic, and for even small households unworkable
- Only collecting waste 3 weekly is going to encourage fly tipping and in some cases your going to get rats and other vermin.
- Absolutely ridiculous idea.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- A three weekly collection of residual waste is not a good idea. In some cases households do not have the facility to keep this waste piled up for collection and this could cause a health risk (especially in hot weather) and also more fly tipping.
- A reduction in school transport will increase difficulties and pressures for many parents and increase worry and impact their wider activities where needing to ensure children need to be at different schools etc. This is neither productive for the child or parent and is certainly not beneficial to their well-being and mental health.
- Likewise, bin collections. This is a prime failure of a council's duty. Three week collections when refuse is already attracting rodents, badgers squirrels and in high summer sees maggots and fly infestations. Again, this will also increase the likelihood of fly-tipping in what is a filthy county with some disgustingly dirty towns such as Northampton Borough.
- Reviewing services "that are currently operating above statutory minimum standards" is a very poor and short-sighted approach. The operators of those services and you as a Council should be proud that they are achieving better than any set standard. Dumbing-down to the lowest common denominator should not be a target for any organisation.
- By all means aim to improve efficiency, but aiming to achieve lower standards should never be acceptable.
- DO NOT change the waste collection to 3 weekly. It will increase dumping of waste cost more to clear up, look unsightly for visitors and residents, increase anti social behaviour and make people not want to live, visit in the area and people will lose pride and respect in their area and in the council. It's a short sighted idea.
- I do have concerns as to the health aspects of bins being left for three weeks during the summer season and wonder about the implications of this on health. Maggots etc develop even within a two week cycle.
- Massive price increases for poorer services. Are you having a laugh?
- By all means, be more efficient. But DO NOT cut the services back any further. You have already cut back the basics, such as refuse collection, reducing the collection rate to tri-weekly will be a disgrace and will highly likely create a bad feeling and bad publicity for the council. Considering that vast savings were supposed to have been made by combining services, how dare you now start to tell us that you are going to take more and provide less.
- I do not agree with 3 weekly waste collection if this includes recycling. We are a household of 4 and recycle everything we can. Every fortnight when the recycling is collected, I put out an additional one or two bags alongside the bin containing recycling. If it goes to three weekly, I would have to put recycling into general waste as I have no facility to hold anymore. However, I could easily have the general rubbish collected three weekly.
- A 3 weekly refuse system will not be sufficient for the majority of these neighbours and you will end up increasing fly-tipping again
- 3-weekly bin collection is a health hazard
- towns already filthy enough without reducing waste collections
- Waste collection needs to be more flexible. Emptying a green bin every three weeks does not follow the seasonal trend. I would propose once every 4 weeks during Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb; every 3 weeks in Mar, April and a minimum of every 2 weeks May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct. Once every 3 weeks during the busy growing season will not provide a helpful service to the gardener and I would seriously consider finding an alternative.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I would also challenge a black bin service of every three weeks, especially during the hot summer months on health grounds. Families collect a considerable amount of black and blue bin waste throughout the year - is the observation I make in my area.
- Finally, if you do pursue a three weekly collection, then please circulate a hard copy of the diary otherwise we will most likely not remember when to put out our bins. Thank you.
- General waste collection on a three weekly basis especially in the summer in my opinion is a complete non starter. Even every two weeks in summer is bad enough with the (at times) maggots and the smell.
- We are just a couple and even with judicious recycling we can fill the general waste bin, so how do you propose larger families to manage?
- This will inevitably bring about more fly tipping, maybe even by people who have never fly tipped before.
- The home school transport parents should be made to make payment towards this they take this service for grantage mum drives yet she gets transport if the child kicks off at school she's goes and picks him or her up why can't they do it in the morning and afternoon why do we send children to another town and bring other children to our town who's idea is this
- Reducing household waste is not a solution supported by any residents that I speak to. In fact less collection leads to increased flytipping.
- I strongly disagree with 3 weekly bin collections. Waste left for longer periods of time will attract vermin. It may be more cost efficient but then it would be even more efficient to move to 4 weekly. The point being that this is a continuation of the downward spiral of services delivered by the council.
- You want to save the taxpayers money but in another comment you want to increase council tax so that is not very fair. You want to improve the town but you blow up a bus station and look at the new one. More money wasted over and over again.
- I am in the Daventry District area, and 3 weekly waste collection might save costs but is not at all efficient, especially in the summer. I would definitely not follow Daventry example on this.
- Please read earlier comments
- 3 week waste collection we had better be provided with larger bins.
- You are meant to provide a service and this will erode services even further
- So the "stick" is reduced landfill collections. I'm ok with that as our black bin is rarely full.
- But where's the carrot? Increased blue bin collection? No. Reduced brown bin charges? Quite the reverse, another massive increase.
- Where's the joined up thinking? Why not reduce the impact of reducing landfill collections by actively encouraging people to recycle more? Work with local retailers and schools to promote more recyclable packaging. Bring back the former NCC Waste Bus for schools. You can do so much more than just screwing residents with reduced services and increased charges.
- Reducing the waste collection to 3 weekly frequencies will have its challenges. For me living alone, it will be fine, but all my neighbours have overfull black and blue bins each week, and some have more recycling and black waste than they can get collected. What happens if we don't get a collection for 3 weeks, and what about those who have sack collections - won't this cause increased fly tipping and vermin issues?

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I would as a minimum expect council tax to reduce when a lesser service is being provided.
- IF THE COLLECTION HAS BEEN DONE ON 2 WEEKLY CYCLE , THEN WHY NOW, what difference will it make.
- Even if 3 weekly , we should get a choice of summer and winter and pay accordingly .
- Do not change the bin collections, it is unsanitary.
- Why do you have to bring it in line, by making it worse for the rest of WNC? Why not align it for the better ?
- So you propose to charge us more for less service. It's an absolute scam.
- More money required for less service?.. doesn't make sense
- Will limit recycling and encourage fly tipping.
- Residential three weekly collections in DDC area, they have a 240L bin as standard, SNC area only have a 180L - the change to 3-weekly should also result in the option to have a 240L bin as standard.
- Once you go to a 3 weekly bin collection, there will be even more fly tipping than present causing an increase in costs to remove that waste. False economy!
- I note that the "early bird discount" for applications for an HMO licence is being abolished. There was presumably a good reason why this was introduced in the first place. Does this reason no longer exist?
- As mentioned in your survey, these are financially intensely challenging times! Every penny counts and yet again, it's the middle earners who have to pay for EVERYTHING! NO, NO and NO. Perhaps you should start scrapping taxi services for children who don't live next door to a school bus stop. It is THE PARENTS' responsibility to see these children to school or, alternatively, to the nearest bus stop.
- Three-weekly bin collections are insufficient, lead to fly-tipping, vermin and NOT VALUE FOR MONEY which we are paying!
- 3 weekly collections would be terrible, since we are not allowed to put black bin bags next to our black bins, rubbish will start to collect up and it would become an environmental issue.
- If you started to allow us to put extra black bin bags out with our black bins then I may support 3 weekly collections, since you allow us to put additional recycling bags out with our blue bins, this works great, but black bins need the same treatment.
- We are only a family of 3 and our black bin is almost full every 2 weeks, change that to 3 weeks and we are going to struggle, I cant imagine what families of 4 or 5 will do
- I think it's very wrong to increase taxes AND reduce service provision levels. In particular, the existing two-week waste collection is vital for local health.
- Most residents do not have spare capacity in their bins after two weeks, and a three-weekly collection schedule will result in increased litter on public roads and fly-tipping, which in turn can increase rat and insect infestations within the local area.
- I strongly object to the move from fortnightly collections to three weekly collections. I strongly urge WNC not to proceed with this proposal.
- Again reducing waste collection will increase fly tipping. We pay enough for recycling so why change the frequency. Also there are some 800+ new homes already occupied in Towcester bringing in approximately £1.6 million in extra council tax. And when complete there will be 2500 homes bringing in around £4 million.. Where is that going to???

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I do feel we are being ripped off in Towcester to fund the old Northampton Borough Council. We've already had to cover their losses, some of which were incurred from their ludicrous loan to the football club. What idiots to agree a loan in full with no check and balances. We in South Northants suffer because of the idiots in Northampton.
- Flytipping will increase. The promise made when NBC took over DDC and SNC was that services would not be levelled down. Three weekly bin collection would break that promise. Come on Borough, fortnightly is irritating enough if we miss a collection (we were away at Christmas so there was a months worth in the black bin - it was smelly and heavy). Unless you will collect bagger side waste in which case while still suboptimal would be a reasonable compromise
- Transport to schools is adequate at present levels.
- Three weekly collections would be not enough for families.
- A 3 weekly waste collection would be a terrible decision to make. This would increase the amount of fly tipping around the villages and countryside. The bins would be over flowing and this will all encourage rats.
- If you introduce 3 weekly waste collection, you will need to provide bigger bins. We are a family of 6 so our waste and recycling is always full to the brim after 2 weeks. I'm not sure how we'd manage to fit another weeks worth in. I think this would encourage fly tipping if people's bins were full.
- 3 weeks is a long time to have rubbish around for, especially in spells of hot weather. Fear also excess rubbish will increase risk of fire setting. Please please reconsider.
- Bin collected 3 weekly massively affects families it's already bad that it's 2 weekly those in neighbouring Milton Keynes have it weekly. I for one find it hard with 2 children in nappies and I am not the only in this situation. Currently I'm looking forward to my black bin being collected this week as it is full I am a massive fan of recycling and go the hughe extnts to recycle as much was as I can but thing like being. When wheelie buns are full where do you stow excess bins the again can be detrimental to the environment as we will start to see people leaving bins at sides of their from of house or end of drives piling up like how it got in Birmingham and this Leeds to cats and other wildlife rumming through bags and with wind and storms rubbish from torn bags blow around the surrounding areas further causing litter, posing danger to wild life, drawing and n pest such as rats plus the local area will start to look dirty unkept also the litter creates more cost for the council when you have to outsource the job or hire someoe to clean up
- I can barely go 2 weeks with out my bins over flowing! 3 weeks is ridiculous especially when on most occasions the bin men don't take the bins in the 1st place and then we have to wait another 2 weeks for it to be taken again! The bins over flow and the rubbish spills out no one cleans it up! And are you then going to give us extra bins to account for another weeks rubbish or bigger bins because you'll soon have rats and blocked drains if not!
- Three weekly waste collection is ridiculous. It's bad enough being fortnightly. The bins are full of maggots and flies. They are overflowing already. Why would this make you think that three weekly collections would be a good idea. How absurd.
- We have medical needs in our household and create a lot of waste including colostomy bags. Do I want them festering for two weeks in the bin? No. Three weeks is a health hazard.
- Home school transport- is it essential? Is it needed? Why the hell are you funding people to travel an hour to two hours away? Find local travel only. If the family chose to send their child out of county then they should cover the costs. You are

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

currently paying for a child I know to get a private taxi to the grange therapeutic school out of county. He is post 16. His parents said they could drive him but you offered so they don't. Cases like this could be looked at! This is crazy and a real waste of money.

- I would prefer a fortnightly collection of household waste across the whole of West Northants.
- We are a family of 5 and are bin is full every fortnight. Charging more council tax and then reducing the service we receive is completely unreasonable. If you are reducing the number of collections will you start taking extra black bags or provide larger/additional bins?
- The proposal for three weekly residual collection is absolutely ridiculous; the standard rubbish bin for a family of 4 has already been reduced from 240l to 180l. This causes issues with the current 2 weekly collections so 3 weeks will be dire. The 240l bin will need to be re-instated for standard size. Three weekly collections will result in further distrust and dislike of WNC. The introduction of the garden waste subscription has only just been accepted in the South area so a further change to waste collections will result in negative feedback to our teams. Waste collection is a essential service an should not be impacted.
- School run services - this is an enabler of the economy (parents can work more efficiently and effectively) and also a significant environmental plus in reducing unwanted car journeys and congestion. This should not be reduced.
- Waste collection - what does this mean. If it means that landfill waste will only be collected every 3 weeks (with the other 2 weeks being used for recycling waste) then that is possibly feasible although it will result in overflowing black waste bins for larger families with concomitant public health and pest issues. This may however encourage recycling over landfill - although some form of monitoring of what residents put in their recycling is necessary.
- If it means that the cycle for both recycled and household waste moves from every two weeks to every three then this is unacceptable as waste bins will be overflowing.
- No details have been provided of how a 3 weekly residual household waste collection service will save money. Bigger or additional blue (recycling) and black (refuse) bins will need to be provided to many properties. I don't think this is acceptable. Furthermore, increasing the charge for garden waste service by 31% and changing it to 3 weekly at the same time, thus reducing the volume of garden waste which can be removed is not OK unless you are going to provide bins which are 50% bigger.
- The proposed introduction of three-weekly waste collections in South Northants and some parts of Northampton offers the lowest service possible for regular services which residents already pay for and are entitled to. Any such reductions in service will have detrimental effects on the local environment, particularly in summer months when the heat will exacerbate odours and could potentially result in the spread of disease.
- I should not have to say more for a reduced service i.e. a reduction ion frequency of my refuse/waste/recycling service.
- WNC was put forward on the basis of improved efficiencies and better services, not reduced services and new fees and charges where none existed (in SNC area) before. Seems to me that local government in this county just lies. Please prove me wrong.
- Houses with nappies- 3 weeks in summer?



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- All bins should have a weekly collection, every two weeks at the least. Three weekly is far too long a gap for families and for smells in the summer. If we're paying for a service ie garden waste, it should be weekly.
- Increases fly tipping
- 3 weeks worth of HMO refuse out for collection? Given the current filthy state of our streets this will certainly add to the dire state of our streets.
- I have full bins after 2 weeks, there is no way I could manage if bin emptied every three weeks. I would end up having to use time and money taking excess recycling and waste to tip. That is because I am a responsible person. A lot will fly tip and the cost of cleaning up that will be more than the money saved.
- People are already fly tipping!! We pay enough in taxes for the two weekly collection! Everyone wants our waste collected frequently
- concern that 3 week refuse collection will lead to waste in the environment and fly tipping - so savings will not materialise as expected
- Both black and blue lidded bins already regularly overflowing on 2 week collection!
- A lot of long words to simply tell us that you are cutting these services even further!
- Regarding 3 weekly waste collections, this is totally unacceptable. My household consists of 2 adults and 2 children (8 & 10 years old), we have a small black bin that is full by the end of week 2. We have 2 recycling bins as we purchased an extra one and both are also full, so we can't recycle anymore, we also pay for a green bin and put out our food bin weekly (full). How are we expected to store waste for an additional week. In summer we have maggots in the bins within a week, what what happen after 3 weeks, this is a health hazard. (we pay to have our bin cleaned every month). If we store our waste outside the bin we will encourage rats and foxes. Will you collect extra waste outside of the bin, if not what do we do? You will encourage fly tipping, what else will people do? This will bring extra costs to yourselves and parish councils to clear up fly tipping. Why should I take my time to take additional black waste to the tip. This would be the worse decision you could make and to be honest, I just don't know what we would do as a household to deal with this situation. Please please please do not put this in place.
- Our house is metres away and opposite a bin store. Already waste is dumped opposite our house as the bin store gets full too quickly and then the bin men refuse to collect any extra that doesn't fit in the store. If you then made the collection of refuse to 3 weekly all estates and roads would be littered quite literally which will encourage vermin and then disease. For goodness sake don't make this problem any worse than it already is!
- We live in a block of flats where there is general large waste bins for all tenants to use, not individual bins for each household. These bins are filled to the brim, usually overflowing by the time the 2nd week comes around, the squirrels and birds in the area grabbing at the bits falling out. If this is extended to 3 weeks the amount of rubbish strewn about will be horrendous, and a lot will end up in the nearby woods, causing all sorts of problems. The bin people already moan about collecting it as is.
- 3 weekly collections might be fine for households of 1 or 2, however larger families or those with small children this will no be practical. When we moved in the black bin had been reduced to 180l, when everyone else had 240 or even 360. Why will I be penalised for having a small bin.
- Reduce the black bin collection? Are you for real; more people will fly tip their rubbish!

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- 3 weekly for bins is outrageous!!!!!! Especially in the summer. No thank you
- What impact does this have on rodents etc?
- As mentioned before 3 weekly waste collections will increase council costs in the long run - through pest control, fly tipping, neighbourhood disputes regarding rubbish in communal areas, litter causing disease/injuries to animals. It could cause accidents in adverse weather conditions, E.g very windy weather and rubbish ending up in roads, blocking windscreens when driving, punctures. This will have a very detrimental effect to all communities.
- The only way I would support the Home to School transport policy is if it was across the board including those on benefits it should be one rule for everyone.
- Introducing a 3 week residual household waste policy would be a mistake not everyone uses the food waste service and families that use disposable nappies their bins would not only be overflowing but also a breeding ground for bacteria with rotting food. This would also inevitably lead to more fly tipping which is already a major issue.
- Education is a key thing for children and making transport harder for some is not ideal
- Rubbish less frequent collections will increase pests, littering and fly tipping.
- Implementing a three week waste collection service will increase the incidence of fly tipping which will cost more in the long term and also increase the likelihood of vermin being attracted to waste.
- So you propose to increase tax and yet reduce the services that we are provided. This is indicative of a poorly functioning and failing council.
- Health hazard
- 3 weekly collections
- Ridiculous idea. The hotter weather and longer interval between collections will increase insect and maggot numbers. Some families struggle to keep refuse in one bin without having to try to fit more in. This will result in more black sacks being dumped which will have to be cleared up. False economy
- We are a family of two and would struggle. There is still too much waste on packaging to start with. Until stores remove it we can't and we need to use our bins. We are super careful yet still usually fill it in a fortnight. Especially in warm weather, bins will attract pests and this would be a huge hygiene problem.
- Three weeks is too long you will have maggots crawling out of all the bins. Again you want to increase council tax and cut the services you really are an insult when we are all paying for this.
- 3 weekly waste collection is terrible idea. My bins are already full with 4 adults in house. We use food caddy and recycle as much as we can and still full. Will result in poor hygiene and vermin
- I believe this will increase fly tipping as my neighbours' bins are all completely full by the time they're emptied fortnightly!
- This is a joke. Any reduction in service should be reflected in a council tax reduction. You are proposing an increase in cost and a decrease in services you provide. It is a ludicrous proposal.
- The bins are always overflowing as is in our area. This would lead to smelly estates and more rodents and disease.
- Three-weekly collections could end up costing the council more in fly tipping and general litter. As a family of 4 who recycles as much as possible, three weekly collections would cause us issues, as both of our bins are full after 2 weeks.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I also think the public feeling will be really negative around increasing council tax by 4.99% but reducing one of the main things most people have contact with the council over - their bins.
- As a resident I know this is something I wouldn't be happy about. I understand the pressures and need to increase Council Tax as a WNC employee, but a reduction in the service received to that extent would cause issues.
- The tip is also so busy that if you did need to use the tip more in between collections, more strain will be put on them
- The school transport should be reviewed. Currently you can live out the catchment for a school by a short amount and have to pay a big amount for for transport. Then those in catchment get it completely free. For example, we lived in [name] village, my [relative] didn't pay to go to [name] school. My friend who lives in [road name] has to pay £600 per year for [their] [relative] to get to school. If we had to pay a small fee also, this would bring the cost for my friend.
- The bins collection will create more fly tipping, and people just dumping things rather than wait. Some of the areas in Eastern district are filthy already! I don't think this is a good idea.
- I used to live in Daventry area and three weekly bin collection was a nightmare!
- Moulton was overrun by rats! It stank. We had to leave.
- Its disgusting. People would go away and miss the one collection day, leaving rubbish festering for up to 6 weeks. You must take into account what happens when people miss a week.
- Already mentioned
- Three weekly bins: you are taking about putting it Council tax up and reducing the services. How does that work.
- Collection of waste on a regular basis is a fundamental requirement. Extending collection to 3 weeks is not practical and could lead to more incidence of fly tipping.
- 3 weekly general waste bin collection is a huge mistake as it will increase bugs, maggots and also fly tipping when bins are full
- Absolutely absurd on proposed 3 week collection of waste. We sort ot for you,we pay for additional bins now you're suggesting we keep it 3 weeks. Mybin was maggots ridden in the sumner weekly. And full. I can't as a disabled person with more waste than most wait 3 weeks. This is the pits. You take 300 pounds a month off me and personally I get nothing except a bin collection
- School transport services are an essential service but I do agree that some routes are not 'full' and this could be reviewed to maximise efficiency.
- Waste collection (black bin) could be three weekly to encourage recycling but I do not feel there should be a decrease in the frequency of blue, green or food waste collections.
- I understand that the proposal is to reduce collections to once every 3 weeks from once every 2 weeks. I would not be happy with this as it leaves waste too long and will cause increase in vermin (rats/foxes, etc) and bad odours.
- It is not acceptable to reduce the waste collection services further. Having black bin waste sat in bins for 3 weeks will attract flies and maggots, as well as likely lead to increased levels of fly tipping.
- This is a disgraceful proposal
- With a family of 5 including a baby in nappies who you refuse to give a bigger bin to, you want to up council tax in a cost of living crisis but reduce the services provided?! 3 weeks between bin collecting is too long. You will see an increase in fly tipping then have to fork out to clean that up. Counter intuitive.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Bin collections should remain at 2 week intervals
- This would increase fly tipping. If this goes ahead then customers should be issued a larger rubbish bin
- Waste Collection: 3 weekly waste collection is unworkable as most bins are full after the current two weeks and in hot weather additional waste could have an adverse affect on the environment of the village. We believe it will further increase fly-tipping or using parish council and WNC provided public waste bins, further increasing litter issues.
- I am disappointed to read about the proposal re Implementing a three weekly residual household waste collection service in some parts of Northampton and across the South Northants area to align it with the approach taken in the Daventry area of West Northants in order to reduce costs and take a more efficient approach to the collection of Household Waste.
- My household bins (black household and blue recycling) is full before 2 weeks and on occasion I have had to visit the recycling centre to get rid of the excess rather than waiting for bin day. To wait an extra week - storage at home with all that entails - is not acceptable.
- I have had to fork out for a brown garden waste bin each year, previously free of charge!
- I fundamentally do not agree with the proposal to implement a three weekly residual household waste collection service in some parts of Northampton. This needs to be urgently reconsidered.
- Moving the bin service to 1 in 3 weeks will increase an already terrible situation with flytipping.
- Changing to three weekly refuse collections will simply encourage vermin and fly tipping - more cost in the long run
- No issues with school bus review.
- Major issue with bin collection. You imposed green bin charge last year and secretly inflated price by £10 to £42 citing the extra was to go to adult social care. Where's the proof it did? The true increase you are proposing is more like 45%. You plan to reduce the service to which you have a legal obligation to provide. We in South Northants had one of the best run councils in England. Since the old inept borough and county officials now have majority rule in WNC all we see is being dragged down by underhand practices to their poor levels.
- School transport is essential for so many young people to enable to receive the education and support they require to achieve their potential.
- A quality waste service collection is essential to ensure we maximise the council's recycling levels, minimise fly tipping and protect the local environment. Education and promotion of the benefits of recycling and good waste management is important to all generations and for our future.
- You constantly reduce services but put up costs. This is only possible because taxpayers have no choice.
- If the manufacturer of my television decided to put the price up but said it would only display in black and white, I nor any other sane person, would continue to buy their products.
- Waste collection needs to be as regular as possible to stop flytipping and littering
- A three weekly waste collection is unacceptable on a number of grounds.
- It is inadequate - bins will be overflowing and attract vermin.
- It is a health issue: for those dealing with incontinence issues, the current fortnightly collection of black bins is unpleasant enough - a move to three- weekly collections could mean up to 120 incontinence nappies festering in a bin. The smell

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

is already bad enough in the summer - under these proposals it would be intolerable.

- Exercise a bit of common sense and compassion for heavens sake.
- Our bins are full every 2 weeks. You will increase fly tipping.
- Our bins are full after two weeks, particularly the recycling. What on earth are we supposed to do with the waste in week3. ?????
- Whilst my black bin could be collected once every three weeks there will be properties that will have surplus waste. Will this lead to fly tipping or will extra bins be provided.
- 3 weekly refuse collection is disgusting and will encourage vermin and also have issues with smell over summer.
- Home school transport is vital for children to get to school from rural communities and with disabilities
- Introducing a 3 weekly residential waste collection will cause environmental health issues especially in the warmer months. We recycle as much as we can but still manage to fill the waste bin in 2 weeks. This is a ludicrous suggestion.
- We live in a catchment area of two secondary schools but there is only transport available to one! Please explain the logic and funding split for the schools!
- House hold waste is collected 2 weekly already and unless you plan to provide larger bins for households you'll find higher fly tipping rates and dumped rubbish
- We cannot move to a 3 weekly bin collection. Households often have multiple occupants and the bins are just about large enough for a fortnightly collection.
- Whilst I agree that we all need to pay more council tax you can't then also take away services.
- As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
- This is an absolute disgrace. Cutting services for school children and leaving waste festering causing rodents. We pay enough for the services as they are. If this is the proposed, you need to reduce not increase!
- Reducing refuse collection is just a dilution of services and represents a poor value for money for tax paying households
- Another example of South Northamptonshire reducing its quality. When are we going to see an upside to the merger?
- Current bin collection pushes our goose to the limit. Every 3 weeks would just see an increase in stinking bins.
- Three weekly bin collections lead to vermin, ill health and an increase in fly tipping. This seems a massive step backwards in to unsanitary conditions which is ever more concerning with increased summer temperatures.
- You have a moral obligation to deliver this service. You force upon residents the requirements and need to recycle, separate our waste, keep our streets clean and clear but you then don't come through on your part of the process. This will drive people to not conform
- I think the three weekly household waste could potentially be a cause for concern. Though our general waste wheelie bin is usually only 3/4 full by bin day, our recycling wheelie bin is overflowing. My main concern, though a small one, is what happens if we have another very hot summer? If bins are overflowing with waste due to collections being three weekly, for some households this could be a potential risk to health and encourage a growth in pest problems.
- 3 weekly refuse collection is totally unacceptable and will encourage fly tipping
- 3 weekly waste collection? That's crazy. Will lead to even more fly tipping which will cost West Northants even more money to clean up!

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- The 2 things you are looking to review are ridiculous. Transport for children to get to school is vital, there are many villages in South Northants and with a bus to take them to school there are sons children who would not be able to get there, especially to secondary schools. My [relative] was a [occupation] so [...] was out at work by 7 in the morning and was unable to take me to school and [relative] didn't drive so without a school bus I wouldn't have been able to get there.
- As for 3 weekly bin collections, the amount of waste that is collected on a fortnightly collection, our bins are full, we live on a [place] with 6 other properties and have communal bins, these are chocca block by the middle of the 2nd week, we also have problems with people driving past and putting their rubbish in our bins so collecting any longer than a fortnight is just going to cause more flytipping and a rat problem
- NO, NO, NO to Implementing a three weekly residual household waste collection service in some parts of Northampton and across the South Northants area to align it with the approach taken in the Daventry area of West Northants
- This, together with the raise in green bin charges will increase fly-tipping and cause confusion to residents - WHY NOT BRING DAVENTRY INTO LINE WITH SOUTH NORTHANTS?
- Rubbish sitting around for 3 weeks is unhealthy and likely to increase rodents and bring other health issues.
- It will also lead to greater littering as bins spill over!
- Bring Daventry in line with us rather than vice versa
- Reduction in waste collection, does this mean that , bigger recycling bins will be issued, the current collection crews do a half arsed job as it, ethere spilling food waste and not clearing it up , or refusing to take extra recycling in clear sacks, failing to empty the bins properly and returning them to collection point
- Our bin size was reduced when our bin was damaged.
- Ours neighbours hasn't been reduced. How do you propose it is fair to reduce our bin size and increase the length between pickups
- 3 weekly bin collections.... I'll charge you for the bill when the rats that we already have issues with in a rural area continue to accumulate and cause damage to car engine wires. Or someone will start a weekly tip collection and likely fly tip in one of the fields and profit from it, you'll then have to pay to clean up the mess from your own inefficiency of managing our already expensive council taxes!
- What country are we in that this even needs to be negotiated, sort it out and don't even think about it!!!!!!
- This would be a health hazard, lead to more fly tipping and would be a disguised way of breaching caps on tax increases
- Pay more for reduced services, laughable. As usual this type of reduction will bring about fly tipping of garden waste which since the introduction of charges has been on the increase.
- Council tax is paid for road repairs, bin collections already and to reduce this you should reduce the council tax amount
- I strongly disagree with reducing waste collections to every 3 weeks. We already pay for green waste to be collected and would be likely paying the same for fewer collections despite the bin already overflowing.
- Recycling would be two bins worth by this point even when flatpacking packaging where possible.
- More pressing issues to be addressed than this.
- Neither examples you give NEED these extraneous services.
- previous comment

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- garden waste during summer and autumn months needs to be more than 3 weekly, but can be 3 weekly in the winter and spring
- Ridiculous proposal, especially given your increased fees for pest control. Does nobody join the dots on the Council? Anyway, when I give up my Green Bin as I cannot afford it, 3 weeks grass cuttings will fill my General Waste Bin.
- Less waste collection will lead to more vermin and more fly tipping. Increasing brown bin charges (which should be included anyway) is unfair and will lead to less take up and more fly tipping.
- We need our waste collected regularly
- Reducing the waste collection service purely for cost cutting is not appropriate
- Most of your residents use none of your services other than the highways, lighting and bin collections - as most services are geared towards the vulnerable. Yet it's those services for the masses that are neglected in favour of those for the minority.
- Politically it wouldn't be a good move. For your average elector what's left for the council to provide once the household waste goes ?
- So you want to decrease the number of household waste collections while seeking to increase council tax??? Explain to me how that offers us good value, other than having overflowing bins because our bins will not cope with the rubbish because companies and suppliers won't reduce packaging and will this apply to recycling collections? Aren't you meant to be encouraging recycling? All this will do is encourage fly tipping by reducing the number of collections that households have. And fly tipping is a huge drain on resource as it is and pretty unsightly
- We already do not have a bus service in the village. The school bus is the only means of transport for school children. If the school bus service was removed or increased cost many families would have to/choose to move out of the village creating an even older village population
- School transport: this disadvantages young people with special educational needs who need to travel between north and west Northamptonshire to attend the school best suited to their very individual needs and will cost parents disproportionately as careers ( if able to find one) will need to be provided for public taxis.
- 3 weekly waste rota raises concerns of fly tipping. Also mounting rubbish especially for homes who do not have large wheelie bins will lead to rodent infestation and molesting of bags stored outside by other wildlife creates health hazards, could cause wildlife caught in rubbish injury/ death and will lead to unsightly rubbish flying everywhere.
- Our black bin split so we had a new one but it's much smaller than our original one... If the collection changed for 2 to 3 weekly collection we wouldn't have enough room in the bin !!
- Refuse needs to remain at bi weekly else bins will be overflowing, smells will become a regular occurrence. Maggots in the summer will be a common thing and piles of rubbish will be building up next to the bins causing unsightly views and an attraction to rodent's.
- 3 weekly bin collection does not take into account the availability of space on streets for the bins. These often create a safety risk on the streets.
- The health and safety implications for missed black bin collections especially in a hot summer have also not been considered. Residents could be in the position where their bins are not collected for 6 weeks or bins are left on the streets for extended periods of time in order to avoid this possibility. This would impact the

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

street scene of west Northants. There is also undoubtedly an increased risk of rodent infestations.

- The idea of reducing bin collections further is utterly ridiculous and delivers a very poor service for residents. Most people even with good recycling habits would not cope with this, particularly larger families and those with infants, in hot weather infants nappies could sit in bins for up to 3 weeks, this is completely unhygienic and the idea that residents in South Northants should get a lesser service to match Daventry is immoral and quite frankly disgusting. Why not improve Daventry's collection to match that of South Northants rather than dragging the rest of the county down to the lowest level. The idea that someone in the council thought this was acceptable and a good idea beggars belief!
- School Transport: There is too much complaining from parents about 'their lot'. Having children is a lifestyle choice that they must contribute to rather than expect those of us who don't have children to subsidise them!
- Household Waste: Again you want the South Northants area to align with other areas - to our detriment! I already religiously recycle my household waste yet my black bin is full to overflowing when it's collected once a fortnight. I would say, if that is going to happen then the Council must supply every household with a larger bin but that wouldn't help me (a [age] year old single woman with limited mobility) I struggle to get my bin down my path to the road as it is. My village has a huge proportion of elderly residents, many of whom would be inconvenienced if this were to happen. Also, by definition, the non-recyclable waste is the smelliest waste and as the climate gets hotter, the smell after three weeks would be intolerable - let alone the flies. In a nutshell, a three weekly non-recyclable waste collection would become an environmental hazard!
- 3 weekly waste collection will increase fly tipping and piles of rubbish in residential streets and elsewhere, already a massive problem
- We moved into a new build house in Towcester 3 years ago and we only got a small black bin alongside a normal size blue bin, which isn't a problem but 3 weeks with a small bin would be an issue. If you were to go ahead I would like to see all the smaller bins changed to normal size ones.
- I wouldn't have so much of an issue now but when my son was in nappies I wouldn't have liked to go 3 weeks in the summer, it would stink and attract maggots etc
- This is not not appropriate to cut back on. If you miss a collection you are looking at 6 weeks of waste building up. This is unsanitary especially in the summer. It will lead to an increase in fly tipping and rubbish being dumped in public bins that will then become a health hazard.
- The black bin is always full at week two, either larger bins need to be provided to offset the extra week or an increase in waste being left outside for rodents will start or leave it at two weeks, the service works as it is.
- 3 weekly refuse for households and areas of sack collection will cause more fly tipping more litter in streets which is already disgusting . The cost already to collect flytipping must already be high and this will only increase . For the large amount of terraced houses with no garden where are 3 bags of rubbish stored .. rubbish is not particularly secure in bags as they are very thin so leaving for a further week leads to further potential of spillage on streets etc. if council tax is to rise I at least want my rubbish collected in a reasonable time. I think where households have bins the issue may be different but with sack collection where do these sacks go and in the summer time it can only be unhygienic . I already litter pick a full bag of rubbish on my one street every week , this will get worse ,



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

Northampton should be ashamed . Councillors need to walk the streets and decide if they would accept rubbish in there home streets . No to 3 weekly collection

- Reducing rubbish collections will result in more fly tipping with all the additional problems and cost they create.
- My Waste Bin is all ready full after two weeks, already recycle everything I possible can. Bins will be over flowing, more fly tipping will occur, especially in villages. This will cost you more in the long run.
- Children should be encouraged to WALK to school, or ride a bicycle, which will make them healthier.
- The levelling of waste collection was inevitable once SNC (a generally efficient local authority) was dissolved and it was swamped by the inefficient Daventry and Northampton Borough elements. Now residents of the former SNC area are paying the price.
- We have just come out of a pandemic and you are proposing to increase the risk of bacterial and viral infection by reducing the already sparse fortnightly waste collection to 3 weekly. As well as the hygenie issues, how can this be justified and at the same time proposing to increase conuncil tax. So further reducing the services covered by this extortionate tax and yet increasing the cost of it - robbery
- Increase costs and downgrade services?
- SNC had a very good refuse service. Accepted charge for garden waste as that's common throughout the country and not all residents have gardens. However all create blue and black waste and food waste.
- Complicated calendars, increase in fly tipping, I will demand a larger black bin, and if recycling full will put in black, local tip is awful. Outdoor be updated with appointments, better and easier sorting and staff who help rather than watch residents struggling to lift waste over high bars.
- Another example of WNC picking the pockets of hapless residents who have no other options.
- Household collection would cause problems for many people - not everyone has masses of outside space to store multiple bins. Current bins would not be large enough to accommodate this proposal - any savings would be wiped out by cost if providing additional or larger bins.
- Three week bin collection will lead to unsanitary conditions especially in summer. Increasing the risk of fly tipping.
- First pay for Green bins note a three weekly service these are all price increases under a different name
- Northampton is an already a dumping ground already with dirty filthy streets overflowing with rubbish... collection every 3 weeks ! That's a health hazzard
- Would but be happy to move to three weekly rubbish collections. We already have had to start paying for garden waste collection, to further reduce the service does not feel acceptable.
- There are many excellent services that are delivered by third party suppliers throughout the county, without continuing funding these services will disappear, and as a result many elderly and vulnerable residents will suffer. It appears that WNDK are oblivious to the implications of the consequences of these. If you really believe that the first paragraph in this section is important and true, this would not be the case.
- Every action usually has a consequence, for example increased use of local refuge centres, increased fly tipping, have these be considered and addressed before implementing them?

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- 3 weekly rubbish collections could lead to issues with fly tipping or pest control. How can you increase council tax by nearly 5% and simultaneously reduce services? At a time when hardworking households are stretched to the limit, I think this proposal will be very unpopular.
- Decreasing the frequency of waste collection is a very bad idea. Where will residents store their accumulated waste? This will result in an increase in litter and fly tipping which is already a huge problem.
- I am a council tenant who pays full rent and council tax and I am very dissatisfied with the lack of improvement to my home and area. Other areas in the town seem to get priority and properties that are newer than mine get the whole shebang whilst we are ignored.
- The current justification for changes to the waste collections are incorrect and based on poor data. The cost of waste collection at SNC was controlled and monitored. Learn from their old method. The recycling levels at tips has gone down and the cost of removing fly tipping has gone up. The increased charges for green waste proved unjustifiable when inspected closely (foi proved the Counsellor was lying when challenged about how this charge was defined). This whole area needs close scrutiny instead of piling on more money. Accountability is key and we are not seeing this. Enquirers are faced with bluff and bluster instead of transparency. Three weekly waste collection is shortsighted. We are encouraged to compost and recycle but that does nothing to empty the bins. When the blue bins are full or the garden waste is too much, it all goes in the black bin. Counter productive.
- Bin colle tonight every 2 weeks is already a very poor service. With a young child one bin every 2 weeks is not viable. Moving to every 3 weeks will impact cleanliness and hygiene.
- 3 weekly refuse collection is ridiculous and will ultimately lead to increases in fly tipping (which will result in additional unplanned costs to the council). Just because a small trial in one area may prove positive does not mean it works for everywhere.
- Perhaps if you stopped wasting money on constant reviews and consultants, you'd actually have money left to provide the very services you need to delivery. Each year the tax goes up, yet you delivery less and less services (Including however much was wasted on unused headquarters). Our previous (South Northants Council) was so much better before being forced to amalgamate with West Northampton!
- I've already answered this at the beginning. Three weekly collection service, you could put a skip in the side of the road and let people throw their rubbish in there then you wouldnt need the waste disposal people and vehicles. Just a skip when it was full. That sounds crazy but let's face it three weeks is stupid, asking for problems with vermin and waste just fly tipping is all that will happen. I wouldn't blame them either.
- If your going to do three weekly give us bigger bins.
- School transport is essential for SEND children and those with disabilities.
- The imposition of three weekly residual household collections in areas where there is currently the two weekly regime, should not be introduced. While in Daventry it was soon adopted by residents with a reasonably high satisfaction rate, it must be remembered that this followed a previous scheme that was quite unsatisfactory. Whereas in South Northants the three bin - residual, mixed recycling and garden - system was introduced with an extremely high satisfaction rate, the move to three weekly residual collections will be a backward step and will lose resident support

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

for the council. The disadvantages of the three week system are - 1- Confusion caused in putting out the correct bin each week 2 - Households with babies will have issues with disposable nappies - particularly smells in hot weather and bins not large enough. 3- Households which have been recently supplied with 180 litre (previously 240 litre) will not have enough capacity for three weeks and will need larger bins 4- With a possible increase in garden waste pricing, a considerable amount of residual bin capacity - and therefore disposal cost - will be encountered due to garden waste being put in residual bins.

- I feel that the current refuse collection is fine as it is . It is not the area to try to save money on!
- Northampton has approx 220k residents roughly half of the unitary and a lot more rubbish is generated, many HMOs and flats where people are living together will struggle with this as will the family households .Northampton is full of flytipping pls see your current data analysis and facebook pages everyday talking about refuse on the streets. Because a rural area does this doesnt mean that it is applicable to other urban areas .Whilst out in the town centre recently the amount of rats I saw was unbelievable .We are not in the victorian times and Northampton ratepayers deserve better than this .I remember NBC agonising over moving to two weekly .
- This is a case of WNC not controlling the budgets of other departments and is unacceptable .
- Household waste should be no more than 2 wks especially in summer, smells and increase vermin are possible
- most of the bins around my area are overflowing with waste, and thats a collection every 2 weeks.
- garden waste during the summer months proves to be a further issue as collection every 2 weeks tends not to be enough and an extra bin or tip run is required, cutting this down to every 3 weeks would be a bit daft, especially if you wish to keep charging the same amount for less of a service!
- home to school service i cant comment on as i dont have kids.
- Changing any of the bin collections would lead to more vermin and flytipping
- Bins will stink & attract vermin if not collected weekly (recycling one week, non recycling the following week) this includes food bin waste continuing to be collected weekly to, nobody is going to stick waste food in their freezers!!!
- 3 weekly waste collection is ridiculous as a single person I can easily fill my bins on the current 2 week cycle - how on earth for you expect a family to manage!
- More Tory cuts thinly disguised as "efficiency savings" No limit to the money wasted on projects that no-one wants though.
- Market Square "improvements" anyone?
- Do not decrease the frequency of bin collection.
- You are proposing a reduced service but increasing household costs. This is more evidence of council corruption. You don't care about people.
- Many households already struggle with fortnightly bin collection so to reduce it to three weeks will leave bins overloaded or overflowing
- Bet that councillors don't have bins emptied every 3 weeks
- People have kids, it is therefore their responsibility to get them to school, why should they be subsidised. Moving to a three week waste collection will only lead to more fly tipping. The area around Northampton already resembles a general tip
- More fly tipping and children at risk from road traffic and people that would want to halt them. I wonder how far councillors walk to work

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- The bins will be over filling it will encourage fly tipping there will be more rats and foxes and in the summer this would be awful people will burn there rubbish.
- If people run out of space in bins and cannot go to a tip (eg no car etc) then could be more fly tipping and general waste problems which could cost more than keeping the fortnightly collections!
- You can review the services, but it looks like everything will need to be slashed because the current demands on services are unsustainable. The meagre amount of money to be squeezed out of council tax and increased car parking costs won't solve the social care problems - the entire UK economy needs to grow so an actual amount of money can be put into the budget. This won't solve any problems, it'll just push it back another year when things will be worse.
- Ever since the inception of WNCC, the old SNCC area has seen cut after cut to services. The council bankrupted the old Northampton Council and they are now doing the same to the SNCC area. Unbelievable. Why don't you measure against Warwickshire or somewhere other than your own worst performing areas
- 3 week waste collection will result in fly tipping and very angry residents. All people care about our bins being emptied. If this is reduced then the Council will receive a large amount of angry feedback.
- Reducing services to the bare minimum is hard. Don't people deserve more than the minimum.
- Increasing the waste collections will only increase fly tipping and littering. Which will cost the council more and potentially lead to antisocial behaviour.
- I am concerned about the school transport and reducing this, what are parents expected to do especially when working full time and/or have other children in different schools?
- [Name] Parish Council strongly disagree with proposals to implement a three weekly residual household waste collection service. Residents have enough difficulty containing waste for 2 weeks in their bins. Councillors are concerned that this proposal will lead to increased fly-tipping activities.
- Three week collections for Household Waste are ridiculous once again Council wanting more money for less services and more fly tipping again.
- Ah the old pay more get less approach. Ever popular I think you'll find with the population leading to fly tipping and generally voting you out !
- This question is badly worded and should have been split into 2 separate questions.
- Whilst I agree with the plan to review the current Home to School Transport Policy I disagree with the implementation of a three week
- Collecting refuse every three weeks is an absolutely appalling plan which is unworkable for most households. As it is, most households fill their bins to the brim for collection every two weeks. Collecting rubbish is the most basic, essential function of a council and if you cannot do that every two weeks with the existing budget then you should ask those in charge to resign now and let someone more competent take over.
- It's a struggle having fortnightly collections and some idiot wants to increase the time between collections to three weeks?! This will just cause more fly tipping!
- No to 3 weekly bin collections
- I am not clear on whether this applies to all waste. The recycling and garden waste needs to be collected as after as it is now, garden waste especially if we are going to have to pay significantly more for the service!
- A 3 weekly collection of household residual waste would be counter productive, as it would increase the amount of fly tipping in Northampton.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- 3 weekly black bin service is OK for me, a single person but for most I feel like this will only result in more fly tipping. This is already a disgrace in the town. 3 weeks of rubbish in the summer months too
- Welcome to the world of rotting stinking waste at your house
- Fly tipping will increase with 3 weekly bin collections costing the council more in the long run.
- I disagree with the 3 weekly refuse collection as Northamptonshire has a problem with fly tipping and this will only increase this
- So you plan to charge us a third more for our garden bins and then you say you'll be leaving our black bins for 3 weeks. Rubbish will stink and attract rats! Where is the environment impact assessment for all this?
- What other cuts are you making or is it just these 2? The link takes me to lots of documents. Who has time to read all that? What are you hiding? Where is the equality impact assessment? Is this all legal or are you trying to hide everything just to push this all through?
- Less waste collections will result in too much waste for large families to be able to fit into the bin, which may produce more fly tipping.
- I agree with looking at school transport seems to be lots of money wasted especially on large coaches running around empty and no joined up thinking with school holidays making it worse.
- Not happy with 3 weekly bin collections
- Why not reverse the idea and bring Daventry inline with SNC, what's going to happen to the staff at waste collection. If you do this fly tipping will increase .
- Likely to require more bins- no room to store the bins
- Waste Collection: 3 weekly waste collection is unworkable as most bins are full after the current two weeks and in hot weather additional waste could have an adverse affect on the environment of the village. We believe it will further increase fly-tipping or using parish council and WNC provided public waste bins, further increasing litter issues.
- The current waste collection in Kingsthorpe. Is bi weekly and in the hot summer we have smelly maggot infested bins which are probably a health hazard, any longer than this is unacceptable.
- The bins need to be taken regularly, unless everyone is give a bigger bin which would surely cost money.
- We live very rural if school buses stoped some children would not be able to attend school
- Please don't change to 3 weekly collection of the bins. It's too long as it is. It's not space I would struggle with it would be the smells from the bins, flies, maggots especially in the summer time. It would also be more reason to poo pick my garden and take to a dog poo bin. I wouldn't want to use my own bin.
- School transport should be free to all. Costing parents huge sums of money to get their children to school is a disgrace. Bus services in our area are shocking and if councils covered the cost it would help bus companies give a better service.
- Do not agree with a three week household waste removal service.
- Northampton and the surrounding area is already blighted by rubbish and fly tipping. Leaving bins for three weeks is insanitary especially during the summer. Flies, maggots, rats, dog faeces, babies nappies. What will happen to those households who don't have bins but rely on bags? The people who pay council tax will be paying more and receiving less. Why do we have to get into line with other councils why can't we lead the way? At the end of the day 'the council' will do what it wants despite the views of its customers.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Three weekly waste collections will require many residents to have larger bins, that will be at a cost to residents - paying more for worse service again. It doesn't matter if services are delivered differently in different districts, and if changes are planned they should level up not down
- Concerns around sanitation for collection of waste moving to every three weeks, notably is properties where waste is stored in gardens.
- I live in the Daventry area and have a house of 4 and we very rarely manage to last the three weeks on the household waste. If house was allowed to have a second/ bigger bins then it would be so able but currently too many homes which wouldn't cope so leading to much more fly tipping.

Don't know

No responses

Not answered

No responses

## Other comments

This questionnaire focusses on the proposals in the draft budget 2023/24 that residents and service users may have the strongest views on.

However, you can comment on anything within the draft budget.

Before moving on to the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2023-24 section of this questionnaire, is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals set out in the [Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan](#) and its Appendices:

[Appendix A – Budget Summary](#)

[Appendix B1 to B5 – List of proposals](#)

[Appendix C – Draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges](#)

[Appendix D – Dedicated Schools Grant Budget](#)

[Appendix E – Draft General Fund Capital Programme 2023-27](#)

**13.If you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals in this draft budget that you have not already told us, including any alternative ideas about how we could save the same amount of money or generate the same amount of income as outlined in the proposals, then please tell us here:**

There were 108 responses to this question.

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	Please see comments already given.
Review of HWRC sites	This needs to be carefully thought out as making access to these sites more difficult could lead to fly tipping. I think these sites should be better enforced as household waste and clamp down on commercial waste. Disposal of

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	commercial waste at the sites should be more expensive as trades people are taking advantage and tax payers are essentially subsidising their business. I use Brixworth HWRC regularly and see a lot people unloading waste that they have been paid to remove. I would prefer to pay a charge to use the facility than lose it altogether or be forced to drive to Daventry or Northampton. Perhaps a pay as you go type arrangement for one off visits for household waste or a subscription or reduced charge for yearly access similar to brown bins.
N/A	It would be helpful to have further detail on what makes up current expenditure in each service area rather than just proposed changes. Without knowing the detail on what money is being spent on below directorate level it is difficult to comment on how we would do things differently to how the council is proposing. E.g. are there savings that can be made in some service areas, are there services that are luxuries given the financial constraints
List of proposals	<p>No more projects like the Delepre bike park please, or more Voi scooters or Delivery robots.</p> <p>Most of this benefits non Northampton residents, but residents are the ones paying/suffering consequences.</p> <p>More non residents use that bike park than locals do!</p> <p>We paid for it via CT, yet non locals use it free??!!</p>
Budget	Cut the pay of some of the highest earners. They are not premier footballers!
Potholes	Negotiations should be held regarding increased provision by public transport. If more bus routes were provided there would be less need for individual vehicles to be on the road causing damage and reducing the pollution.
	Bring back NCC
FOCUS	<p>Please ,ensure Councillors who make these vital decisions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Understand the proposals and most importantly have read them.</li> <li>2) Recommendations that a performance rating is given every month on Elected members ...listen to the community ,please read and understand proposals not just vote on the whip ask the uncomfortable questions !!!!!</li> </ol>
Daventry district council offices	What is happening to the money being saved by no longer using these? Will the site be sold?
	More action, less meetings and discussions!
Increase in CTax, Increase in Garden waste subscription, Bulky waste, decrease in amount of black waste collections	Too many changes happening in the same financial period which will affect all our residents.
All	Create efficiencies. Reduce spending on woke/PC schemes. Reduce spending on premises. Northampton/Towcester/Daventry etc. Cut out

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	PC roles such as Diversity and inclusion. Cap Managerial salaries
	Scrap WNC and bring back SNC they were a well run efficient council with balanced budgets.
	WNC has been a mess from day one.
Racecourse free parking	Don't introduce. You will be preventing poorer people from enjoying the racecourse and getting exercise.
Budget	I had no idea the council budget was so big! How fantastic. I look forward to seeing the fruits of it being well invested. This is going to be an amazing shire to live in.
	Why are you not increasing fees on casinos and gambling facilities but inflicting increases on your residents instead? It shows a complete lack of care for residents.
Draft budget	Increasing costs year on year and reducing services is quite honestly disgusting. Northampton has become a dirty rotten town that is devoid of soul. There are no decent shops in town. Nightlife has been ruined since the uni moved to the centre of town. Nobody wishes to shop here. The streets are full of rubbish and the roads are full of holes. Yet you wish to charge us more and more!
Police Commissioner	Get rid [...] and employ more police.
All	Reduce staff, reduce pay for executives; deliver more with less like private sector companies do. Start managing performance (staff resources, programmes and services) better with tougher metrics; stop treating residents as cash cows and recognise the sheer levels of frustration, worry and anger these [proposed] changes will bring. Listen to the residents who pay your wages and plfubd your pensions.
Charge for parking at the racecourse	This will only add pressure to the already overcrowded streets nearby, many of whom are used by HMOs to park and congest the streets
2324-B4-140 Household Waste and Recycling Centres	It sounds like you are planning to close one or more of the recycling centres. They are well used and given the proposals on the green bin charge will become even more well used so there is soem disconnection between these proposals and this one would be unreasonable and would lead to increased fly tipping anyway so should not be progressed as it is a false economy and won't make the saving suggested. It has not been thought through.
Bus Services	Funding rural bus services is an essential activity for the Council to support vulnerable, elderly & inform residents who have no other means of getting to hospital; doctors; work, college, etc.
	For example, the Stagecoach 200 bus along the A361 corridor (Daventry/Banbury) is an essential service & if Oxfordshire can find some money to contribute to keeping this service active, why can't WNC?
	Too much money is being spent in the urban areas the rural voice is not being heard



Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	Overall this is solid budget and future plan. But there needs to be greater emphasis on demand reduction particularly in Adult and Children's Social Services which appear to be financially out of control. Demand in Children's Service Social Service is not going to go away anytime soon without drastic action in the short term.
Social Care	Less use of private providers especially for day services . Less funding of taxis and fairer charges . Reveiw of care packages , those that really need a service should be given priority , again less taxis and more use of the mobility cars - DOUBLE FUNDING !
	You have no idea. Angel street - waist of money. PCC - waist of money. You really need to start again and think about what we are paying for. The town is a mess. Roads are a mess. Buildings left empty because it's too expensive. Get a grip
village engagement	<p>I represent a rural ward and it is my belief that we do not engage enough with the parishes.</p> <p>The more independence they have the better they and WNC will be.</p> <p>Could we have more engagement to see how our services could be more devolved.</p>
salaries	how can you justify VERY high salaries for senior staff?
	While educating and encouraging the residents of the town to take pride in Northampton willingly and because it is the right thing to do, the council is not yet taking full advantage of the income it could, and is legally able to generate from fines and fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and littering. An FOI request to WNC in June 2022 showed a massive variation of FPN being issued across the WNC area and a poor record of ensuring these are paid. This is money which could be ploughed back into dealing with the litter problem in the town.
Gambling, fitness, HMOs, parking.	<p>Northampton residents hate HMOs. Only [name] MP likes them because [they] (legally) exploits the planning system (with WNC members' help probably) to get permission to create more. I bet [...] delighted that [...]aren't increasing the HMO fees at all.</p> <p>I expect that those who feed off addiction and poverty and helplessness by running casinos and related premises are delighted that their fees are frozen. And yet you seek to increase physical activity fees and charges by over 10% (where you've even declared any). Have you no shame?</p> <p>Car parking - all day at Daventry was £2.20 and now it's £12.00? Brixworth has gone up again along with season tickets (that used to cover all five country parks and now only cover one). The figures on pages 14 and 37 are different for Brixworth. Which is true? Who proof-read this document?</p>

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	<p>Northampton town centre parking: I rarely go these days because the shops are so poor and it's dirty and full of homeless beggars who you aren't housing, and with increased parking charges I'll go even less. Do you even understand what you're doing?</p> <p>Don't mug the residents to make up your shortfall, thinking it's a long time to the next elections. Tories out.</p>
Draft budget is daft again ?	<p>What is the use ?</p> <p>The council has already decided , and will over pay staff once more , who just look towards a golden pension. Nothing is going to change.</p>
	<p>We cant afford to standstill and firefight weve got to be brave and reinvest in our county it feels as though all our services are stretched to the point that they are critical, lets make a start with at least one positive project and we can then see some progress in the right direction.</p>
	<p>What a surprise that the bankrupt NBC takeover of the solvent DDC and solvent SNC would result in a bankrupt WNC</p>
	<p>More money could be saved by making efficiencies in ways of working at the council offices</p>
Appendix E	<p>There is no mention of funding for any climate change activities.</p>
	<p>I think they're all crap geared to the benefit of the fat cats at top! Not actually thinking of us residents or what our actual needs are just what you want to follow from other counties. We're paying to fix you being bankrupt through no fault of our own but we've got to pay extra to get us out of it! It's the biggest scam going!</p>
	<p>Save money - cut expenditure for the existing council buildings - ie. plant supply/ watering service in Forum which is not necessary. Multiple tv's in council buildings switched on permanently with no purpose. Selling any assets we don't need or use - buildings in WNC area. Eliminating the small fees for these type of things which add up.</p>
	<p>Good luck - thanks for the hard work.</p>
All of it	<p>No one wants to go to Northampton Town anymore, it's horrible. It has no decent shops, it feels unsafe and your decisions are pushing people to Rushden and MK. Such a shame. Now these measures mean no one will be able to afford to do anything either.</p>
	<p>Work more effectively, stop your work force standing around, or sitting in vans. Dont send excessive work people to complete jobs</p>
Residential refuse collection	<p>Fine the people who put bags outside their houses every week before correct time. Encourages vermin and more litter.</p> <p>Also charge for people who choose to put out excessive waste and not recycle. It's disgusting and if they aren't doing it they should pay.</p>

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	Please ensure that the budget fully supports rural areas and is not weighted to give priority to the urban areas.
	The contract for Highways was re-awarded to the [...] who was widely accepted to do a poor job...the reasoning behind that is unfathomable. Our parish gets little or nothing and the inability to improve roads, pavements, hedge cutting etc or other amenities is quite frankly embarrassing- in short nothing gets done unless we pay for it.
All	So lying to us, and about the Council doesn't work and cannot continue.
2324-B3-036, 2324-B4-061, 2324-B4-0085	<p>2324-B3-036 Corporate Services Members Allowances inflation Unavoidable Pressure</p> <p>Increases to Members Allowances 148 Shame on you that you hid this in an appendix, you are cutting services and giving your people below inflation rises, but give yourselves an inflation increase. Two examples of cuts which will directly impact your constituents are listed below, again hidden in an appendix.</p> <p>2324-B4-061 Communities and Opportunities - Sport Leisure Management (SLM) contract payment Buying &amp; Commissioning Contract amended and this budget no longer required.</p> <p>2324-B4-085 Education Services Preventative commissioning Buying &amp; Commissioning Children's preventative commissioning Yes you have to make tough decisions but you should lead by example and show you understand the plight of the people you serve.</p>
Staffing in care professions	Stop using bank staff and treat permanent staff better, pay them a fair wage with better working patterns which will increase job satisfaction and aid staff retention and actually reduce costs as the need for bank staff would drastically reduce.
Improve standards	Review and remedy the poor and unsatisfactory local services. Daventry Job Centre, Daventry Planning Department and DSLV school which is failing the children in Daventry and local villages who have no choice of school to go to.
Waste collection	I believe i am correct in thinking that frequency of rubbish collection (black bins would be going to three weeks?). I would disagree with this. Given many of the things that my money goes towards in the council tax are not services I use then removal of this leads to erosion of perceived value.
All A to E	This is wnc's problem not mine, just give me the service I have had this year and stop tinkering with it.
	Employer supervisors to check up on 'workmen'. You will save a fortune.
Pet projects are bad. I want bin collection preserved.	You are supposed to be a conservative council. Yet your proposals to punish ordinary citizens for wanting the very basics of regular bin collections and increase your revenues

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	to fund ridiculous pet projects rather than basic services are abhorrent.
Fines / parking	You should look at increasing these costs for people doing things wrong. No why would you when you can just charge more to each household to cover this anyway.
	Parking charges - the poor businesses in Northampton. Why would I pay £1.10 an hour to pop into town. I might as well go to Rushden lakes or out of town shopping centres. I used to use the town more when there was free parking for a couple of hours which would make me pop in more often. Now I don't bother. No wonder everything is closing down and the town falling apart. You also don't feel safe. Moving the brier to redevelop again. How much was spent on that last water feature which was then blocked over. It's cheaper to park in Milton Keynes at 50p an hour.
	Become more efficient. WNC are totally enept at doing an efficient job.
Reduce collection of waste bin collection	Disagree - the council tax should cover the cost of fortnightly collection.
	I understand that the proposal is to reduce collections to once every 3 weeks from once every 2 weeks. I would not be happy with this as it leaves waste too long and will cause increase in vermin (rats/foxes, etc) and bad odours.
Other comments	No Comments
All areas	Challenge local government allocation. Put simply, it's not a fair allocation.
	Challenge split agreed at unitarty re West and North. Put simply, the allocation is not fair or fit for purpose.
	Challenge local government re levelling up bid rejection.
	Rather than maximise increases for all fees etc, a two tiered approach should be considered for example some fees maximise immediately, others over three years.
Cut parking charges	We should be stimulating our local economy by reducing charges to car parking.
Increasing parking charges in the town centre	Instead of increasing parking in Northampton town centre why not introduce them to the other local towns that currently don't charge at all? How about putting in meters along the Wellingborough and Kettering Roads? Seems that the town centre is an easy 'victim' because there are already parking charges.
Parking charges	Reducing parking charges and advertising this in tandem with the new branding toolkit will likely INCREASE revenue by increasing use of the town parking , adding footfall lost during lockdowns and business takings. More efficient use of each MSCP would allow pricing variability and even offer options on the Mayorhold in the medium to longer term.
All	Get about and talk to taxpayers, we are sick of successive councils taking us for mugs and wasting our money, the market square in Northampton is a prime example.

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	With all the new housing and increased amounts of houses paying council tax you shouldn't need to tax other areas.
Parking	More free parking and keep the mayorhold
Parking increases at country parks	I live in brixworth and can walk down to the country park. In the summer there are lots of families from the town playing football having food / they spend the day. Children exercise in a beautiful park as they come from housing without gardens. It's fabulous to see so many diverse cultures enjoying our country park.
	Why would you consider making the daily charge so high - these are not wealthy people.
	Whoever voted this in has no idea how expensive it is to find a day trip with children. Shame on you for even considering it.
All	As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
	Stop taking from residents without giving better service
All	Do you honestly expect residents to read all these appendices to comment succinct on them? Why aren't they summarised in one document? This just feels like an exercise in public consumption rather than actually listening to people on their level. Why aren't councillors explaining this in public meetings locally?
Special Expenses Account for Northampton	Northampton should have a special expenses account to pay for services currently funded by WNC that are primarily for the people of Northampton-eg sports pitches. The upkeep of the are paid for by WNC yet in SN area they are paid for by Parishes
	The Council is massively over staffed - just look at how many people you send to meetings
	Need to get rid of all of the old SNC and DDC offices - extra cost and inefficient
General Comments	There are a number of Council Officers running a department within a district who are earning more than the Prime Minister gets for running the whole country - re-evaluate if they are worth it and recruit people on 'sensible' salaries!
	Last year the Council went through this public exercise and one set of figures produced a 75% opposition to the action being proposed - the councils response was 'Noted' but no changes were made - so what's the point of asking the public if the answers are ignored!!!
	Where are existing budgets disappearing too - roads are in a worse state than ever, bus services have been cut and many removed all together.
	New buildings and high salaries seem to be the norm and also need reviewing urgently
	Constant cost increases are ruining lives, this is just another nail in the coffin. Thanks
All	Apply budget efficiently

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
Overall	The budget being in so many documents is v difficult to navigate through, if not impossible to find the relevant sections, one document however big would be better
Fees in General	Many of your increased fees will drive business away from the council into private business - take your fees for pest control or building control. On the converse you Council Chambers will be much in demand for meetings as they will be free & you get free refreshments as well. I know where I'm having all my meetings next year & there is free heat & light as well.
Resident Parking Permits and Use of the old "Peacock Centre"	<p>Who now owns the old shopping centre that used to be called "Peacock Place" off Abington Street and Market Square? Could this space be converted to house Council employees rather than renting 1 Angel Square?</p> <p>Hazelwood Road is very wide (enough for cars parked both side with still enough room for emergency vehicles) and one way. There are hardly ever any cars parked there with local residents paying for private parking off street. Parking restrictions and wardens operate in the street from 7am to 7pm. The Council could generate income by selling "Resident Parking Permits" for the street (without allotted spaces). Visitors to the street could still pay at the meters to park.</p>
	Please rethink the ideas of giving a lesser service for more money and actually stop trying to make this a 2nd rate council. South Northants was a good council, please don;t make residents suffer for the rest of the counties mistakes! People may tolerate increases to maintain services but to increase taxes and reduce services would be an utter disgrace!
Overall budget	Looks like South Northants are digging Daventry and Northampton out of their poorly run services
	<p>How much money is spent on agency staff within the council ?</p> <p>Why are the council allowing hmos to increase without taking into account the likely impact in neighbourhoods short and longer term. The emphasis is on caring and building community but this is rather fairytale when transient people are housed, often with needs that directly impact on community who are powerless to make changes needed . If I had money I would not live where I do .. should it really be like that for individuals. How can you own your environment and community when the powers to be wouldn't live there ??</p>
	Council tax is a distress purchase. I feel I, as a single persons, get value-for-money for the tax.
Car Parking Fees and Charges	The proposal to increase both on street parking and car park charges in Northampton at a time when footfall is declining and local businesses are facing increasing cost pressures across the board is hugely negative and counter productive and will result in fewer consumers and thereby more businesses failing, increasing empty shop fronts, making the

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	Town Centre less attractive to visitors and consumers. This simply furls the downward spiral of the Town Centre. Parking should not be free, but it should be competitive to other regional offerings and creative in stimulating consumers to make a trip to the Town Centre attractive e.g. proof of parking provides discount off coffee/convenience food scheme.
	Freeze council employee salaries inline with nurses. Freeze all expense accounts for council staff, these are unnecessary.
Support for local voluntary organisations	<p>Not sure where this is in the proposals. [Name] have offered projects to support vulnerable people Garden Buddies for those no longer to physically care for their gardens, car service in Brackley essential to get patients to medical appointments, food larders in Towcester and Roade. Voluntary organisations need proper management and policies to ensure safety - if not supported financially by the council these residents may well end up back with the various WNC teams e.g. housing, benefits, social care etc.</p> <p>So short sighted</p>
	You have to understand the country is screwed at the moment. Appreciate the need to generate funds but this will cost more in the long run - fly tipping, complaints handling etc. Surely it would make more sense to invest in smarter technology so staff roles can be reduced to save money.
	Maximise green spaces and natural areas that aid mental health. Stop making stupid decisions around parking and planning that actually make it harder to balance and improve mental health.
Draft Budget	I doubt if anything I say will have any impact on this, I doubt if this is any kind of consultation, as your decisions have already been made.
	I wish I had some alternative money-generating ideas! but I will keep thinking :)
This consultation	The sheer number of documents in this process will put off the majority from participating. There must be a way of summarising the main proposals in concise, plain English.
Review all third party contract performances	<p>Let's see how many contain performance related penalties.</p> <p>Contracts should be carefully managed and monitored and weighed up against customer service calls about issues arising.</p> <p>Not enough transparency across departments.</p> <p>Let's see some joined up thinking.</p> <p>For instance, reduction in green waste collection during the winter months and apply those staff to other waste related assignments such as fly tipping, tips etc.</p>
Increase to parking cost in town centre	I am a new resident of the town centre and a regular visitor to areas like St Giles Street. I'm proud of this area and the independent businesses that occupy it - it's the best area in the town and I'm keen that the independent businesses aren't met with any more barriers than they already have at

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	the moment. That includes increasing the cost to park in the town centre which will certainly discourage patrons from shopping and using these businesses, and in the current climate, this should absolutely be avoided. The town is so much more improved for these businesses and they should be prioritised.
Roads	Instead of hiring extortionate companies like road doctor, why don't you employ your own people or have you sold all the equipment that you had to do the road yourself at one time. Please stop wasting money and think about making saving within your department instead of expecting constituents to have increases in their council tax, green bin collection, parking and any other excuse to extract money from people who are going to food banks to live, wearing coats to keep warm, can't afford to run vehicles because of another set of robbers 12% profit Shell made last year whilst we were paying £2 a litre. Try giving back instead of taking, think of the rest of humanity as well as children and the elderly ,the layers of people in between that suffer.
[...]	Whilst I agree costs have to be reviewed It appears DAventry residents are disproportionately bearing costs due to the merger. Examples are bin costs fewer bus services and in Long Buckby we even run our own Library . The roads are a disgrace and at the moment standards don't seem to improving for local residents . I would like to see a noticeable difference in services provided for the population in the next year for the financial increases
Improve northampton	I understand [name] own most of the properties in the town and that's the reason why rates are so high, but some focus needs to be put on changing this. Otherwise nothing in the town will change. It used to be a thriving centre and slowly shops have moved out because its too expensive, and as soon as the bigger ones went, the smaller ones weren't getting footfall and left too. I realise shopping habits are changing but there are plenty of towns and cities that have got this right, such as market Harborough, Birmingham. It is possible.
Parking and HMOs	Please reconsider the cost of parking and the damage / pressures it is placing on us as town centre residents and the business surrounding our home. Could part of this cost not be put on to HMOs who have had 0% increases on their licence and renewal fees? The volume of HMOs is a constant complaint and this would help dissuade their growth
General	Based on past experience the council will take no notice of the views of those who put them in power. I have never seen my local councillor in 15 years living locally. How can he possibly represent my views
Increase of councillor allowance	Acknowledge that this is not in the draft Budget but the increase costs WNC £176K which could be used for residents' benefit not to give members an enhanced financial reward.



Name of proposal(s)	Comment
	<p>Most dedicated councillors do what they do and devote their time for the good of their community, not for remuneration. We can claim travel expenses and already have a generous allowance and the vast majority of members are already drawing a pension, with fewer below pension age who are still working.</p> <p>Members pay increase are linked to officers' annual pay awards, yet the two posts are quite distinct. Officers are employees, contracted to work for WNC. They have job descriptions, have to work specific hours, perform specific tasks and are subject to disciplinary procedures if they don't perform these tasks. The Constitution details councillors' responsibilities and tasks and the Code of Conduct we are subject to but the actual role can be and is interpreted by members I would suggest pretty loosely.</p> <p>I believe the 5% increase for councillors will stick in the gullet of many struggling residents.</p>
Building control	Unlikely to affect me, but the percentage increases are well above inflation.
All	You all need to have a think about this properly and stop ripping us all off
Parking fees	Reduce them you fools. More footfall in town centre = more shops = more rent. Why can you not understand this?
	Forget the fountain in the market square, money saved can be used better. Don't forget that there was an interactive fountain at the bottom of the square which had to be turned off! It's not going to get more people to visit!
DSGD	Will this stop schools begging parents for 'voluntary' contributions? If not, it's not enough money. Alternative ideas for more money is to have an economy that isn't stagnating, so people can afford higher taxes. All you can resort to is scraping pennies together.
Black Bin Collection	I have concerns that charging Black Bin Collections to three weekly as it cause problems due to smelly waste in the Summer especially for those with large families.
	Honestly whoever came up with this plan needs a serious rethink. This does nothing for the county its economic growth, businesses or people. It is dreadful on all levels. Poor service and expensive
Parking charges	Do not abolish free parking on Sundays. Do not close the Mayorhold car park because doing that will lead to congested carparks to an extent that people will start avoiding the town centre. You can make that money by investing in cleaning up the high street around Grosvenor: pressure wash the flooring, paint all buildings, put more plants and lighting, and have a police officer regularly patrolling the area to put off antisocial behaviour which scares off customers. Doing that will increase businesses in town because of increased customers m, and allow the council to make more money from business rates charges.

Name of proposal(s)	Comment
Harmonisation	Why is it that as a Daventry household my overall tax will go up more to harmonise it with the rest of the County instead of reducing the rest to align with Daventry levels. Rather than make the correct decisions on efficiency and value for money it's much easier for you to simply charge the rest of us as much as you can get away with in the sound knowledge there is nothing we can do about it
	This just seems to be a tick box exercise will all of the details purposely hidden from the public. You're going to do what you want anyway.
Fly tipping penalties	Fines should be increased, especially those done by businesses. Repeat offences should be fined
	Cut the amount of Council meetings and staff members
Active Travel	Government funding is available for Active Travel. Developing an imaginative Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan would bring in an income stream that could radically transform Northampton for the better. It would make the town a cleaner and less congested place in which to live and would help meet the Council Objectives for health and well being
Rates	Increase the rates on the thousands of new £400,000 houses which have been built all over the green belt on the outskirts of Northampton.

## Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23

Local housing authorities are required by law to keep a Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

This HRA shows the accounts for the Council's housing provision, identifying the major elements of expenditure and how these are funded, mainly from rents. Any money that enters the HRA, can only be spent on social housing and it is the Council's responsibility to set a balanced HRA and avoid financial shortfall.

There are strict rules surrounding the costs and income that can be charged to this account. Much of the income and expenditure is dictated by legislation and regulation leaving the Council with limited direct control over a number of these budgets.

The Council has a housing stock which is managed by its arms-length management organisation, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH).

The Rent Standard 2021 which is a national policy ordinarily allows annual rent increases on both social rent and affordable rent properties of up to the rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index - CPI) plus 1 per cent. The CPI in September 2022 showed an increase of 10.1 per cent due to the high levels of inflation.

In order to help manage the current situation, Government went out to consultation and later announced in their Autumn Statement that rent increases would be capped at 7 per cent this year rather than at what would have been the higher level of 11.1 per cent.

The Council and NPH are proposing to increase rent from 3 April 2023 by 7 per cent, on average across the Council’s housing stock in line with national government policy. This will increase the average rent from £97.00 to £103.79 per week, or £6.79 per week. This increase, which is substantially below the current level of inflation, will help to manage the increasing costs that are also being experienced in this area.

This increase ensures we are able to continue and invest in a high-quality housing service for our tenants and any income generated will go back into the Council’s housing pot to be spent on maintenance and building new homes. Failure to increase the rents by the statutory amount will not only have a significant impact on income in the current year but also in each future year. It is estimated that a 1 per cent reduction in the rent increase would reduce the rental income by about £0.5 million in the current year.

The Council and NPH are also proposing an increase of 10 per cent for tenant and leaseholder service charges, (in line with CPI at September 2022), and to increase garage rents and the commuter surcharge on garages by 10 per cent. This will increase the average rent per garage from £9.96 to £10.96 (or £1 per week) and the commuter surcharge from £15.83 to £17.41 (or £1.58 per week).

For further information please see the [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan](#) report, and its appendices:

[Appendix 1 – Draft HRA Revenue Budget and MTFP Summary](#)

[Appendix 2 – HRA Budget Proposals](#)

[Appendix 3 - Draft HRA Capital Programme](#)

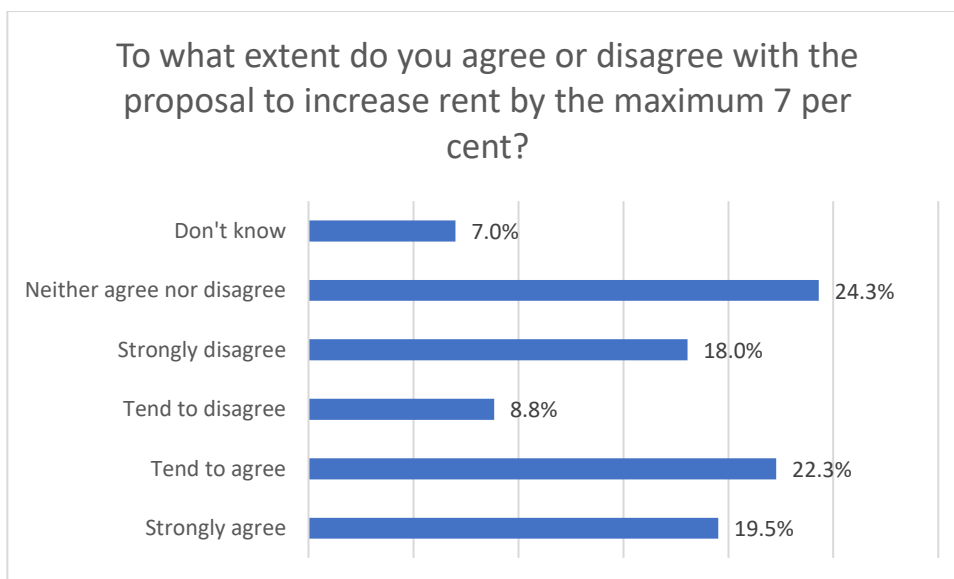
[Appendix 4 – Draft Northampton Partnership Homes \(NPH\) Management Fee](#)

[Appendix 5 – Draft Schedule of Rents and Service Charges](#)

**14.To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase rent by the maximum 7 per cent (an average increase of £6.79 per week) across the Council’s housing stock managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) in line with national government policy?**

There were 543 responses to this question.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Per cent (%)</b>
Strongly agree	106	19.5%
Tend to agree	121	22.3%
Tend to disagree	48	8.8%
Strongly disagree	98	18.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	132	24.3%
Don’t know	38	7.0%



**15.If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:**

There were 172 responses to this question.

**Strongly agree / tend to agree**

- These rents are already way below the mortgage rate and when the occupants buy them they get them at a hugely discounted figure so it's a win win for them. £6.79 a week is nothing to most of the people in rented accommodation as there are a huge amount already on Housing Benefit.
- All other worldly costs are up, so rent should be also.
- Council housing is a cheap option
- Seems to be in line with inflation
- I think an increase in rent is inevitable, but this seems reasonable.
- Very affordable too most and probably majority are on some form of benefit.
- Most people living like this currently on benefits that far outstrip your proposed increase
- Should be 10% across the board as already heavily subsidised vs private rent
- Rents across private sector are much higher and cost of maintenance has risen
- As a previous council tenant I can understand the need for the rent to increase. I assume this will be used for repairs etc to council property.
- They need to pay a viable rent. Residents in council houses seem able to afford take aways and Sky TV!
- Nobody likes to pay more rent, but the increase is at least below inflation, for which we must be grateful.
- Those Council rents are very low compared with what people have to struggle to pay for in the private sector let alone the huge increases for people with mortgages so its very fair to increase them.
- It's time we don't subsidise council tenants they should pay commercial rate
- This is a fair charge IF you are maintaining the properties to a decent standard. You cannot control this with an ALMO in place.
- Social housing is extremely cheap, those living there can afford an increase, and those on lower incomes get the increase through their benefits anyway
- We are all affected by the cost of living increase, so renters should contribute too

Strongly agree / tend to agree

- Social housing rent is far too low, and many people that kids have left home shouldn't be allowed to still have it.
- I agree with garage rental but less sure about rents as people really struggling
- bring NPH back under the council. make better use of council stock including commercial and repurpose if needed. stop using nightly lets and lining the pockets of agencies.
- It is important to have sufficient funds to maintain properties and rents are very low compared to the private rental market. Housing Benefit/Housing Costs in Universal Credit remains available to tenants unable to afford all or part of the rent.
- Council rents are so far behind the private sector, this represents a huge amount of income to be gained.
- 7% is a reasonable increase but some people will still find it a struggle.
- An increase is a necessity but at a time of inflation the lower cost shows that we are willing to engage.
- So my council tax will go up again but those in a council house will have an increase but only £6.79 disgrace someone of them don't even pay anything
- Without doubt a challenging area, but with a less than inflation increase it has to be considered positive. The concern is that where rents are ultimately being financed through benefits, the impact is felt by those just outside the safety net who may find this increase on top of other cost difficult, and may in fact increase demand for support.
- The increase is only justified if the additional income is used to keep the housing inventory in proper repair.
- Everyone is paying more for housing and council rents are cheap
- If this will ensure that housing stock will be maintained according to good health and safety standards, it is a sensible increase.
- Social housing should move more in line with private rental. My private rent has increased 10%
- social rents are so far behind the private sector.
- I agree because private sector housing have had to absorb a hefty increase in rent so these figures are justified.
- Council housing is cheap and includes repairs. 7% is below inflation. It should rise in line with inflation and mortgage rates
- Time to pay for the accommodation and stop being heavily subsidised by others
- Rents are very low at the moment
- Most people probably get subsidies of some kind so won't be paying it
- Private renters get this why should council renters not?
- "With a high % of people in social housing being on benefits then the increase in benefits should help with this amount. People in private rented/those that own their own homes are also facing big increases, the average rent for social housing is no where near private rents or mortgage levels so they are still offering housing for those needing additional support"
- Levelling up.
- I am a home owner so are not really concerned with the above, but do wonder how people who are finding it difficult to pay their rent at the moment, will be able to cover the proposed increases.
- Cost of living has gone up for private residents and it is only fair that council residents should cover increased costs borne by the local authority
- As know the rents are very reasonable.

### Strongly agree / tend to agree

- Local authority tenants are often poorer people, but do have access to benefits where private tenants often don't. It also means there may be more money to maintain those properties better.
- Those of us paying mortgages have to pay sector led levels, and therefore so should those in social housing.
- Again we are in a cost of living crisis however rent increases are just a part of life and what you are proposing I think is reasonable
- Rents are increasing across the country as many mortgages are too
- Fairness
- People are struggling to pay bills, you will be putting more pressure on tenants
- all rents are increasing due to the cost of living rising. Only right that happens in the social housing sector
- I think it's necessary to increase rents and invest money in social housing - I wish councils had been allowed/enabled to invest more over many years, to replace council housing that's been sold off. I hope there will be enough support for those who will find it very difficult to pay - these tenants are not likely to be very well off and it would be terrible if raising money for future housing led to people losing their homes in the present. I don't know enough about how this is funded to make any other suggestions - it would be great if the richest in society paid more to support social housing, but I don't know how that can be achieved.
- Can't afford anymore and we said this in the first answer but no one listens
- Social housing should be self managing
- A lot of local authority tenants drive top of the range cars - a lot can afford more than 7%
- To be fair most people I know who live in council houses are financially better off than people that own their houses as they know how to play the system.
- As housing costs hit everyone, this increase is only fair - albeit hard, it's not sustainable to put the increased cost of social housing onto those who are one rung above or similar property in the private sector.
- It is a very difficult decision people are struggling already this increase will put more vulnerable people into even more difficult situations and as a consequence an increase in demand on the council services. A Catch 22!

### Neither agree nor disagree

- The Council should consider very carefully the risks associated with this proposal and the demand for other services that it could fuel.
- My concern would be if the current housing stock is up to standard rent can be increased on any housing which is substandard or in need of major repairs - assuming it is then I can understand the need for a same increase but that is a lot of money I imagine for people using this housing many with struggle to find it with other spiralling costs
- seems to me that many tenants are already struggling. As soon as a payment goes above £100 it becomes an issue
- With everything going up this could have an impact on those people who are currently struggling
- Need to look after their buildings inside and outside. If not maintained properly they will have no decent stock worth renting.
- It's time the council supported the Residents instead of keep taking the money off them

#### Neither agree nor disagree

- No comment
- Well again it will mean less money for families already struggling .
- We are all having to pay more for our homes, whether this is through mortgage or rent. If rising costs though add to the problem of homelessness and a higher volume of cars parked on the streets as people give up garages, does the council will have a contingency plan?
- It's doesn't impact me.
- I cannot comment as I do not rent a council house and do not know how fair the charges are
- I think rents probably need to increase. BUT I think peoples individual situations should be taken in to account. For example a young 20 year old in a minimum wage job would struggle to pay an increase whereas a family with two working adults and various tax credits and wages could and should pay more.
- Not a service that I use and I do not know what the population is like.
- I have no recent experience of housing rent but considering there is a high percentage of residents on benefits who's rent is paid for by the council this move seems counter productive, this will once again impact on the few that work and can pay which is unfair
- I'm running out of time to do this. Waaaay too much reading of appendixes with too much jargon. This accessibility of this survey is too with too many documentst to open as links, leading to non consiered anaswers. , you need to make this survey shorter and more concise. As a market researcher i imagine you have fall off rates quite high from here on in.
- I have no knowledge of rents
- It is god that the % is lower than average but will still make housing unaffordable
- Most of housing stock was sold off , to housing associations , as was cronicley under invested when own by the districts
- Charge a fair rent in line with private rental in the area
- Am not affected
- Not sure what the total costs are, and how much partnership company makes in profit.
- A further tax on people who are not able to afford it
- No comment
- This doesn't affect me so I don't have strong views either way
- Simply because those that can afford an increase will be OK, but many simply cannot afford it. The council need to be aware of individual circumstances and just because the increase is below inflation does not make it affordable.

#### Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- people are already being squeezed by increases on their cost of living with many people already to either heat their homes or eat, any further increase could lead to an increase in homelessness especially for families
- Those in social housing are usually the people in low paid jobs. they will already be struggling to pay their already high bills. The threat of eviction from not paying rent will have a detrimental affect on mental health, putting further strain on the NHS
- rent is already high enough and NPH do not complete repairs in a timely manner, they leave houses cold, damp and full of mould.

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- Absolutely fundamentally wrong. Individuals living in local authority housing will not be able to afford this. They will use services more due to impact on mental health, and so will be a false economy.
- Households do not have increases in income above inflation to meet the demands for increased costs across the board. this proposal could push more people into poverty and worsen the cost of living crisis
- As a tenant of NPH I have been astounded by the continuous mis-management of contractors during repairs and upgrades to my property and that of family members. Money appears to be leaking from the service due to poor service by sub contractor repairs and recalls to any issues. If I were a home owner I would certainly expect a higher level of service from these providers and also more project management from NPH. Of all the works carried out at my property over the last 8 years I have never seen anyone from NPH come and inspect what is happening during the process.
- Things are hard enough without a large increase in rent!
- People can't afford it. People on low incomes should not be expected to pay much higher rents
- 2 or 3% fine but not 7%
- Everything possible must be done to minimise these increases at such a difficult time please.
- This will target the most vulnerable in our society, who are already hit hardest by the overall national situation. This rise will be unsustainable. Instead, ways should be sought to increase some other revenue streams - Council tax if possible .
- Just in case you're unaware there is a cost of living crisis, people will be rioting come spring.....
- If I was able to buy the house I am living in, I would see this as an investment, but I can't because I live in an area that has too few houses and I pay way more rent than repairs done on this house. Why does the rent need to increase? The housing association won't even fix my bedroom ceiling, which was broken when I moved in! Why should I pay more rent? It just leaves me with less money to look after this house.
- Start spending revenue on the masses and people whom pay into the system, not wasting it on people who will never contribute to society
- How do you expect those on low incomes to survive?
- Unless tenants has a 7% net increase in household income or benefits they will be disadvantaged financially, forcing them into potential homelessness situation.
- I've applied Continual Improvement to housing repairs, saving 14% costs in a year, while reducing backlogs and improving the quality of repairs, housing stock etc. Voids turnarounds (key to key) including modernisations & refurbishments took 12 working days on average. From the national and local media the biggest issue is HOW these are managed, not funding!
- Most people will struggle to pay such a big increase in one go and may well result in more arrears resulting in a reduction in rent received and higher enforcement costs and possession action. This will not lead to the increase in rent anticipated by the budget. It will also increase the number of homeless applications and the costs associated with that. It is not clear that consideration of increased temporary accommodation costs etc have been taken into account.
- This is not enough when compared to private rentals



Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I think a 2% increase would be a fair compromise as 7% would be difficult for most tenants.
- You have never helped or give anything but very quick to take.
- not affordable by payers
- I think this would just make life more difficult for the most vulnerable in our community.
- What ever this renters will be subsidised , so they will not feel any pain or difference. If this tennants can afford to have big new expensive cars, designer clothes, upto date mobile, etc and spend vaping around, and doing businesses from homes , it will not matter to them.
- Cost of living crisis - people who are renting may not be able to fund an increase
- Hitting the people who can not afford it
- They cant afford it, freeze rent while the energy crisis is still here
- The average tenant is likely to be on a low wage and as such this increase will hit hard, especially as their council tax will also go up by almost 5%. (assuming they pay it). Personally I think the Council Tax should be increased and the proposed rental increase reduced.
- Most tenants are quite poor so increases should be resisted.
- People can barely afford rent currently. Increasing it by this amount is going to lead to poverty and people choosing between food and heating. Again.
- Most people can't afford their rent as it is increasing by 7% is actually ridiculous, I live in a house full of mould and drafts and things wrong that I've been waiting months for someone to come and fix and I'm still waiting but then you want me to pay more rent for it! Why should i pay more rent when you reduce the services you give me!
- If you have to balance the books ask for a one off payment not a permanent increase which will have to be paid every year
- We cant afford any increases we are struggling with the cost of living as we speak
- Because the cost of living is extortionate and this is criminal
- There is a cost of living crisis
- impact on tenants
- Your housing provision is a joke and completely inadequate and different in different parts of the authorities area. Another 7% spent on a poor service will do nothing. Rents will still ride for those lucky enough to obtain social housing, but the majority will still not be able to access the service.
- Council tenants are often those on the lowest incomes - raising costs is just going to make life far more difficult which is unnecessary at this time.
- People can't afford it.
- More hardship for tenants paying to much already.
- Too many things are going up in price, fear too many people will not be able to afford the increase.
- Increase should be more closely related to inflation in actual costs or funded through charges in new developments.
- "Cost of living People are going into serious debt
- Won't be able to pay their rent"
- Tenants using HRA are usually amongst the poorest in society and increasing rents by 7% in the current climate will be unaffordable to most."
- Rent is to expensive as it is

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I don't know where you think residents are getting all this additional money to be able to afford all these increases in a cost of living crisis. I suggest you spend your money more wisely!!!
- As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
- People are struggling financially. Where are they supposed to find the extra money.
- I am guessing that to ease pressure on the general fund you are probably over allocating central charges to this fund - need to do more of this to keep council tax down.
- People can't afford this
- Inflation is irrelevant to people with no savings. They will just be much poorer.
- I believe this would effect the low income families that are struggling to pay there ills .working long hours and just over the level to get any support fanatically. But would not effect the that get lots of support with everything.e
- Don't you think that the "hard up" have had enough?
- Who has money to pay for any increases? Nothing more to say than that
- "It should be more! I personally know of someone who works for the [name] who is in a council property - and the moment he got one, his rent dropped so much ([...] was in the private sector) what [...] saved enabled him to go out and buy a new car! How many more like [...] are there out there? Many families who live in council-owned properties are much better off than those of us who don't because they don't have to pay for the upkeep of their houses. They are the ones you find smoking outside the pub, not us!"
- I disagree with the rent capping. Charge what it costs.
- Where are people going to find this extra money? wages are not going to increase with the rate of inflation.
- It's too much money for everyone
- Just ensure that the plan is sustainable and gives back to locals
- Most people who live in social housing do not do by choice as the houses are in ill repair, cold and damp , to charge extra money for people already on the lowest income band is appalling
- I don't see anything for the money in paying
- Because the costs are being increased without full justification.
- This is likely to impact adversely on those currently struggling with cost of living
- "It's not feesable they already pay above and beyond. What about the run down older property that has mould, damp and you want to charge 7% more. It's cheaper for people to get a mortgage sadly they don't have money for a deposit because they are fleeced at every turn."
- I can't afford to pay any more rent than I am at the moment. I have had to cut my working hours due to poor health. I pay full rent. I feel very let down in that I don't see anything for my money. The estate is a tip! I need outside lights for it to be safe for me to negotiate my front path. Nothing is done to make our estate safer or look more esthetically pleasing. Other areas of town seem to take priority.
- Not sure how people are going to afford this level of cost
- Stop using private housing companies to maintain they're just making money and not maintaining peoples houses, fututres housing group are a good example of that

Strongly disagree / tend to disagree

- I fear that this increase may be too much for many tenants and lead to housing problems for them.
- People are already struggling to pay bills and getting 2nd rate service from council re repairs which means paying more for shoddy housing
- With the cost of living crisis continuing, bills rising & people not earning anymore money in their wages putting rents up is crazy, freeze or lower for a year or two
- "Reducing the council rental income, can be viewed as a positive step as it would put pressure on officers, negotiators, procurement to really drive the prices of contracts down. As for leasehold, this is the biggest scandal of the 20th/21st century. Arms length, or private Leasehold management companies are not accountable to anyone. Do everyone a huge favour and do not engage with developers who use the leasehold route. Leaseholding ought to be outlawed."
- It should be lower as many tenants are at the lower end of the income scale
- People in partnership homes tend to be in the lower income groups and would be disproportionately affected by increases in basics such as rent, heating and food.
- I don't live in a council house but if I did, I bet I wouldn't be able to afford a rent increase. Talk about picking on the vulnerable. How about more taxes on really rich people?
- How do you expect people to afford anything!
- Good to not increase rent by inflation but if you increase other charges tenants have to pay to 10% then some may find themselves in increasing poverty.
- How can people afford a higher rent if wages aren't going up?
- Rent increases should be in line with wage increases. Families on low income are already struggling with bills and wages are not increasing with inflation.
- How will this benefit households renting??
- Private landlords are being forced to keep rents low and the public sector are putting rents up 7% how interesting and 10% for service charges. And this for the most vulnerable in society. Seems somewhat skewed from the rest of your budget
- People in social housing are the most vulnerable and already are struggling to afford to eat, any increase is going to be impossible to fund and will affect their mental health.
- Tenants using HRA are usually amongst the poorest in society and increasing rents by 7% in the current climate will be unaffordable to most.
- Council tenants are amongst the poorest section of the population and many will already be very hard pressed coping with the rise in food and fuel costs. Money would be better exacted from those that can afford it eg by reducing the discounts on Right to Buy.

Don't know

- As I am not a contributor to HRA budget I have no comment, thanks.
- I'm not a council tenant so didn't feel it right to comment
- Doesn't apply to me
- I don't use social housing and as it's budget is ringfenced I feel that it's not for me to comment on this policy.
- I don't know enough about renting to make a detailed comment other than to say the PAIN should be felt equally across the board

Not answered

- There is not enough social housing.

**16.If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be avoided:**

There were 67 responses to this question.

Negative impacts and mitigations

- As above
- 7% does seem a large increase for people with low incomes
- Households do not have increases in income above inflation to meet the demands for increased costs across the board. this proposal could push more people into poverty and worsen the cost of living crisis
- People are in social housing for a reason - they cannot afford private rental costs and do not have the funds or income to buy. Any increase at this unstable financial time could leave families having to cut down on already lean heating provision (causing possible long term damage to properties) or go without food.
- I am sure it will have a negative impact on some families, but that is largely down to much wider issues that can not be solved at a local level.
- additional costs for already vulnerable residents
- I may as well live on the streets. So many of us on waiting lists on the A lists mind - and this council decided it was ok to have thousands of empty properties some for YEARS.
- It will negatively impact on hard pressed families. No doubt about it.
- Council rents are well below market rates so they are fair.
- It will, along with other increases, stifle peoples ability to spend, restricting any economic growth.
- To raise rents by so much will aggravate, yet again, the disparity between the "haves" and "have nots" in our area and will eventually only increase the need for Council services for these families. This is a short term approach and will only make the budget add up in the very short term, before it's effects begin to increase budget pressures.
- No negative impact.
- Raising rent would definitely have a negative impact on me financially and put even more below the poverty line. With this hyper-inflation, crime is going to soar. If rent goes up, will you start fitting burglar bars onto windows, put locks on oil tanks, put 8 foot walls around properties with locked gates and install burglar alarms as I certainly won't be able to afford to?
- Run services efficiently eliminating profiteering.
- The economic crisis is just starting, charging 7% more without a fundamental service improvement can only create greater deprivation.
- As above.
- Only people with DWP help, or tent rebates will be able to pay.
- invest rent increases in new council housing stock there is insufficient stock currently, more housing availability will reduce rents for all renters over time
- Charge them the going rate

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- The proposal of 7% would have a negative impact on the public and their view of the council in these hard times. Families are struggling with rising costs of living in general, this would not help the matter. I feel that there is an understandable need for increase to support the council, however, if by stating that a 7% increase was suggested, and then opting for a 2% increase instead. Showing that 2% being agreed over 7 would be received better by the residents of NPH, allowing for a further 2% increase in 2024. Slow and steady wins the race would be the best choice here.
- Make them pay it in full they can afford it on benefits
- Less increase 4% ?
- people cannot afford this
- I think it would risk causing more homelessness and poverty when our community is already on their knees.
- rent increases unlikely to be affordable
- The increase will hit the lowest paid hardest and could result in more families suffering further hardship.
- It would cause more rent arrears, resent to the council, we're all struggling as it why make us struggle more!
- Negative impact - people will have an increase in benefits ie. HB/UC to pay for increased rent.
- Affecting mental health we can't afford anything were living off food banks
- Again, you need to bear in mind that residents are struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table, and you are proposing to increase their council tax and rent.
- It will send more people on to the streets..its irresponsible
- People in council housing often live on the breadline or are on benefits, they cannot afford this. You are pushing them into debt and food banks
- People cannot afford it.
- Housing stock will deteriorate, rents will rise, and provision across the council area still be inadequate and unbalanced.
- Just do not increase anything.
- Too many things are going up in price, fear too many people will not be able to afford the increase and be able to pay their bills.
- If tenants working and earning a salary that is reasonable (decide on say anything over 23k, then put the rent up. Fair for all.
- Likely to be too small of an increase and will result in a funding gap.
- This only affects working people, people of benefits it doesn't apply to because they don't pay anything as it's all paid for them. Maybe the council should be more considerate of working residents
- Tenants using HRA are usually amongst the poorest in society and increasing rents by 7% in the current climate will be unaffordable to most
- With many tenants on minimum wage this increase equates to two meals a week for them. Suggest effort placed in charging higher taxes for vacant properties in private sector.
- Drive further poverty!!!
- As above, don't guilt me or anyone else into thinking this financial mess is anything other than the result of exceptionally poor management.
- Be prepared for defaulters
- Your poorer residents will be even worse off.

## Negative impacts and mitigations

- I believe this would effect the low income families that are struggling to pay there ills .working long hours and just over the level to get any support fanatically. But would not effect the that get lots of support with everything.
- How can peoples lives get much sadder? This is 2023 not 1523.
- Would help balance the books
- Financial impact to those affected
- More taxpayers money spent on debt collection in a cost of living crisis there will be more crime as people can't afford to live at the moment
- This is above the level of average wage increases and below inflation. How will people afford the basics to live. A Conservative council should lobby their government for better local authority funding.
- Review the maintenance contracts with third party providers. They charge too much for the level of service and no one ever seems to follow up with the resident to see if they a)showed up on time b)left at the end of the day not half way through it c) turned up equipped for the job d) used decent quality products and are not short changing with cheaper, not robust products. E) revisit rate to resolve the same problem again.
- Of course it's going to have a negative impact along with increased Council tax rates, daily living, fuel, parking, green bin collection. It's only a matter of time before you start charging for street lights despite already paying. Someone needs to sit down and look at one of your councillors and someone on minimum wage and see if they can afford all these increases you propose. Probably not make a dent in the counsellors pocket but those on minimum wage with a 5% increase. Say no more.
- Added costs from other budgets community food banks etc
- You're going after school kids, the elderly and poor people. You should be embarrassed
- Don't raise rent, you're just making more profit
- I fear that this increase may be too much for many tenants and lead to housing problems for them.
- Said it in other box please we can't afford more bills don't put any more on bills from Council your a good council but we can't afford more get [name] to find a better way not just next year but now and come out to shops we'll all tell you good ways all car parking should be different rates and the closer to town the more expensive it must be just like Melton keeyns also sell the big ones as the station is building a very big one. When you going to build on the old coach station. Think that [name, expletive] snatched all the cash go get [them] for it rather than blame the good blokes and don't forget the nurses they work really hard all thi time
- With the cost of living crisis continuing, bills rising & people not earning anymore money in their wages putting rents up is crazy, freeze or lower for a year or two
- As above.
- You'll be forcing some families to starve.
- Debt and unachievable standards of living
- It could affect the elderly who are already struggling on there pensions.
- As above
- Affecting the poorest and most vulnerable people in society largely on fixed incomes. Where does your increase come from
- People in social housing are the most vulnerable and already are struggling to afford to eat, any increase is going to be impossible to fund and will affect

### Negative impacts and mitigations

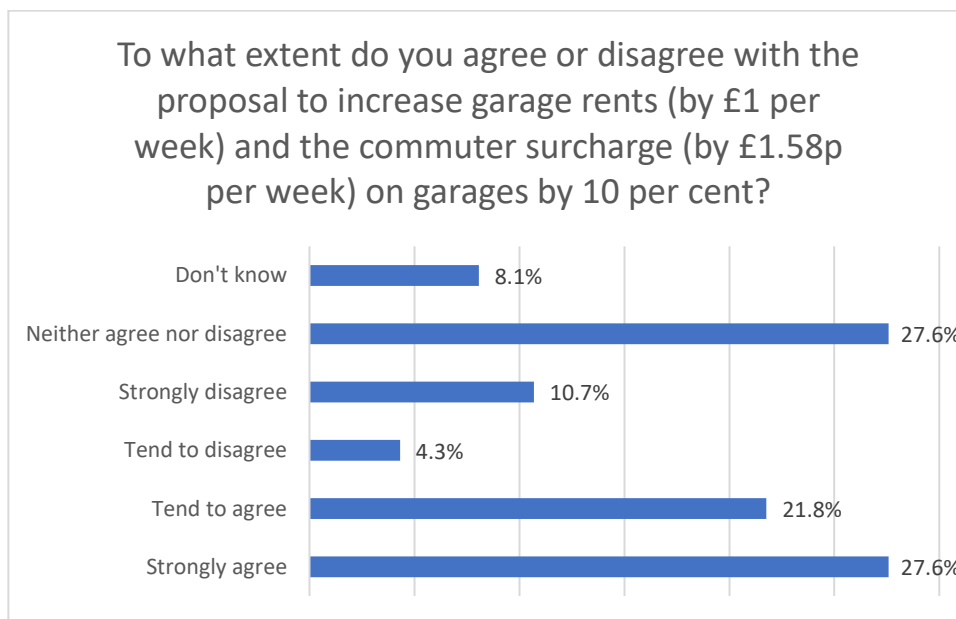
their mental health. It would cost more to assess individual cases if extra cash was available to help them.

- Tenants using HRA are usually amongst the poorest in society and increasing rents by 7% in the current climate will be unaffordable to most.

### 17. Table 7, To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase garage rents (by £1 per week) and the commuter surcharge (by £1.58p per week) on garages by 10 per cent?

There were 533 responses to this question.

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Strongly agree	147	27.6%
Tend to agree	116	21.8%
Tend to disagree	23	4.3%
Strongly disagree	57	10.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	147	27.6%
Don't know	43	8.1%

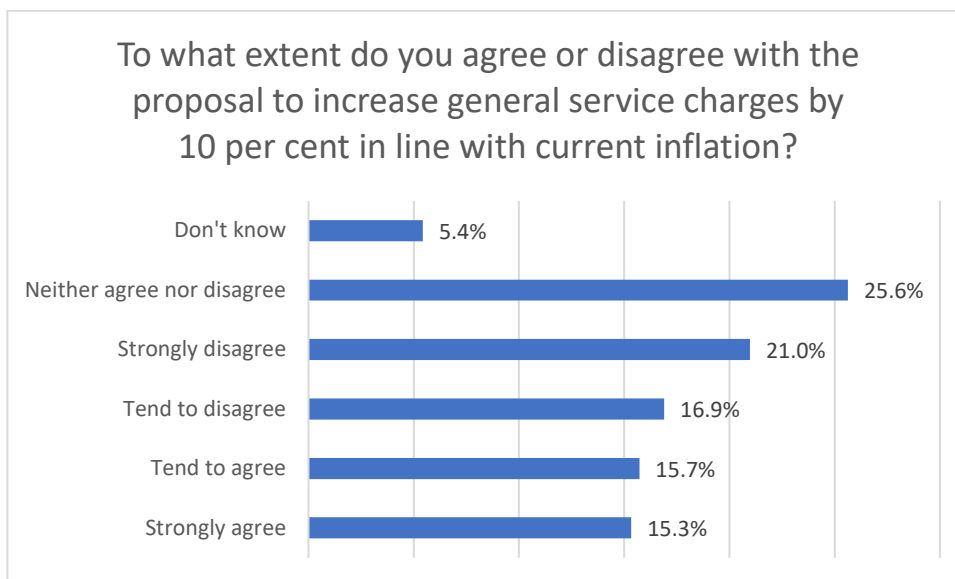


### 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase general service charges by 10 per cent in line with current inflation?

There were 515 responses to this question.

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Strongly agree	79	15.3%
Tend to agree	81	15.7%
Tend to disagree	87	16.9%
Strongly disagree	108	21.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	132	25.6%

Response	Count	Per cent (%)
Don't know	28	5.4%



**19.If you have any comments regarding the HRA Capital programme and indicative budgets as summarised in the [Draft Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan](#) report, and Appendices, then please tell us here:**

There were 34 responses to this question.

Comments on the HRA Capital Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the majority of garages are in very poor condition. so are the houses but this is due to people living there who do not care for them on the whole, but the garages have not been maintained properly for years are are in a very poor state.</li> <li>Garages are not a necessity and should be charged at a higher rate.</li> <li>Do not increase anything we do not have the money for this.</li> <li>It will, along with other increases, stifle peoples ability to spend, restricting any economic growth.</li> <li>This survey has completely depressed me. I am not going any further. Sorry.</li> <li>The current rate of inflation is only temporary, why increase everything by that amount rather than the annual change ?</li> <li>Garage rents are an area where it is not an essential for most people so it may well result in people giving up garages if they cant afford them but others in waiting lists may well then occupy them. Therefore there is minimal risk of a significant detriment to people in increasing this cost and is one that should be at least the cost of inflation esp as rents are so low and to rent a garage privately would cost significantly more.</li> <li>Having seen numerous public examples of the failure to deliver good quality accommodation and repairs in a timely cost effective and caring fashion, I find it laughable that you call.ghis a high-quality service. You have to better manage the budget by getting better quality, delivery and management from staff and especially contractors. There needs to be robust quality and audit measures to address shoddy, poor and late work than adds misery to tenants and creates waste delay and additional cost to the council in trying to deliver</li> </ul>



## Comments on the HRA Capital Programme

these services. Another example of poor programme, project and contract management.

- get rid of garages and redevelop sites
- No comment
- Not sufficient they need to increase in line with the private sector
- About 1 pound increase in garage charges do this on my council tax wht nummty came up with that idea
- Increase after increase. And I suppose you will all get a pay rise. Don't see how this is right
- no comment
- Repeated, it's all a scam to squeeze every last penny out of us hard workers and beat us down
- The quoted inflation is at a point in time and is not an indicator of ongoing inflation. However if you have done a proper market based assessment of where the service charges should be and this indicates a rise then that is more appropriate.
- General views are that the current rate of inflation will drop by 2-3% over the coming financial year. 10% is too high and a more realistic rate should be applied.
- If pay rose with inflation, costs in line with inflation would be easier, but it doesn't and you are forcing people into poverty
- Too little too late.
- Inflation is going to go down. By relying on it staying, you will contribute to it staying
- There is a downward trend for inflation which is predicted to be lower than 10% by the time this budget is introduced. Consequently any increase should be less than 10%
- Why, when the dwelling rent revenues are continually increasing in the coming future budget years, is it considered likely that the bad debt provision would, at odds with logic, be a flat linear projection?
- No comment
- If you are increasing rents by 7%, it seems fair and reasonable to hold the other increase at this level too - 10% increases are not justified in this cost of living crisis imho!
- Get to grips with other local housing associations. Make them properly maintain their properties. Fine them if they don't. Would bring in a fair amount of funds
- This questionnaire is appalling. Red tape, jargon rubbish.
- Need to be higher - closer to commercial rents. Those on low incomes get help.
- Garage charges [unclear] are already £ 11.50 rising to £12.50 in aprilwhat for you do no maintenance theroofs leak water runs under the floor the place is becoming very run down
- Nobody can afford increases, this whole survey is pointless. You want to decrease provisions and increase rents and fees, how could anyone be happy with that???
- Concerned about 10% rise in these costs in line with inflation when wages (especially public sector) will not equally rise by 10% so where's the extra money coming from for families in these properties to cover the costs?
- Charge what it vists

Comments on the HRA Capital Programme

- Stop raising the cost of services without a full review of operating costs. Some shockingly short-sighted decisions are being made that are killing our town and county. We need creative solutions not just lazy increases on services.
- No comment
- Every thing that the council owns people pay through the nose I can't believe all the revenue your trying to make out of people. Garages they should come free with the house, if they aren't council tenants then perhaps they shouldn't have a garage.

**20.If you have any other comments you would like to make about the details within the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget report and its appendices, that you have not already told us, then please tell us here:**

There were 11 responses to this question.

Comments on the HRA Capital Programme

- Too many 5 bedroom homes being built with far too many bathrooms, this deters people getting on the housing ladder. One or two bedrooms max surely are what are needed? The homes near me I believed were for the homeless but the builder went bust so left empty which is criminal. Okay on the floor plain on Welford road, but now built they should be habitated urgently. Where the Romany pub was and now converted to flats the planning department and architect should be commended as excellent work
- Hire people who live in Northampton who actually have an idea of what's needed, and not a distopian view of the world.
- What are 6 persons in hmo supposed to do with their waste,? Needs bin by racecourse as it will get used
- How can you defend such poor and unbalanced services?
- I hope you will lobby central government as social housing is vital and should be prioritised in these difficult times
- Charges should be increased by a greater percentage to protect against further inflation, these below inflation increases are not appropriate at this time.
- Have residents had a pay rise of 10%? Will you increase funding to adult social care by 10%? Doubtful
- Inflation will reduce next year
- Set a cap on how many houses private residents can own. I know this is a national issue but landlords buying up properties for their portfolios just raises rent for everyone and reduces housing stock for genuine buyers.
- I think I've shown my disgust at every increase you propose. This county is the highest paying county in the UK, it's the highest fuel, highest food, highest vet fees and that's just some differences.
- Good luck increasing everything and still having any support from the public.

## Demographics

### More about you

#### **21. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation / community group?**

There were 613 responses to this question.

Individual or group	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Individual	596	97.2%
Organisation or community group	17	2.8%

#### **22. Organisations**

#### **If you are replying on behalf of an organisation or community group please tell us the name of your organisation and your job title/role:**

There were 14 responses to this question.

- [Name] Parish Council
- [Name] Parish Council
- WNC as a councillor, my comments are reflecting what i believe the views of the majority of my constituents
- [Environmental organisation]
- [name] Northampton [area]
- [Name] Parish Council
- [Name] Parish Council
- Nnhs
- [name] Parish Meeting
- [Name Limited Company]
- [name business organisation]
- [Name] Parish Council
- [Name of environmental organisation] West Northamptonshire
- [Name]

#### **Job title role**

There were 13 responses to this question. Job titles or roles do not appear in this appendix in order to protect respondents' anonymity.

#### **Individuals**

Please only complete this section if you are responding as an individual.

As an organisation, we collect specific demographic information from the people who take part in our consultations or complete surveys to build up an accurate understanding of the communities that we serve so that services and policies can be delivered to meet the needs of everybody and ensure that everybody has an opportunity to have their voice heard.

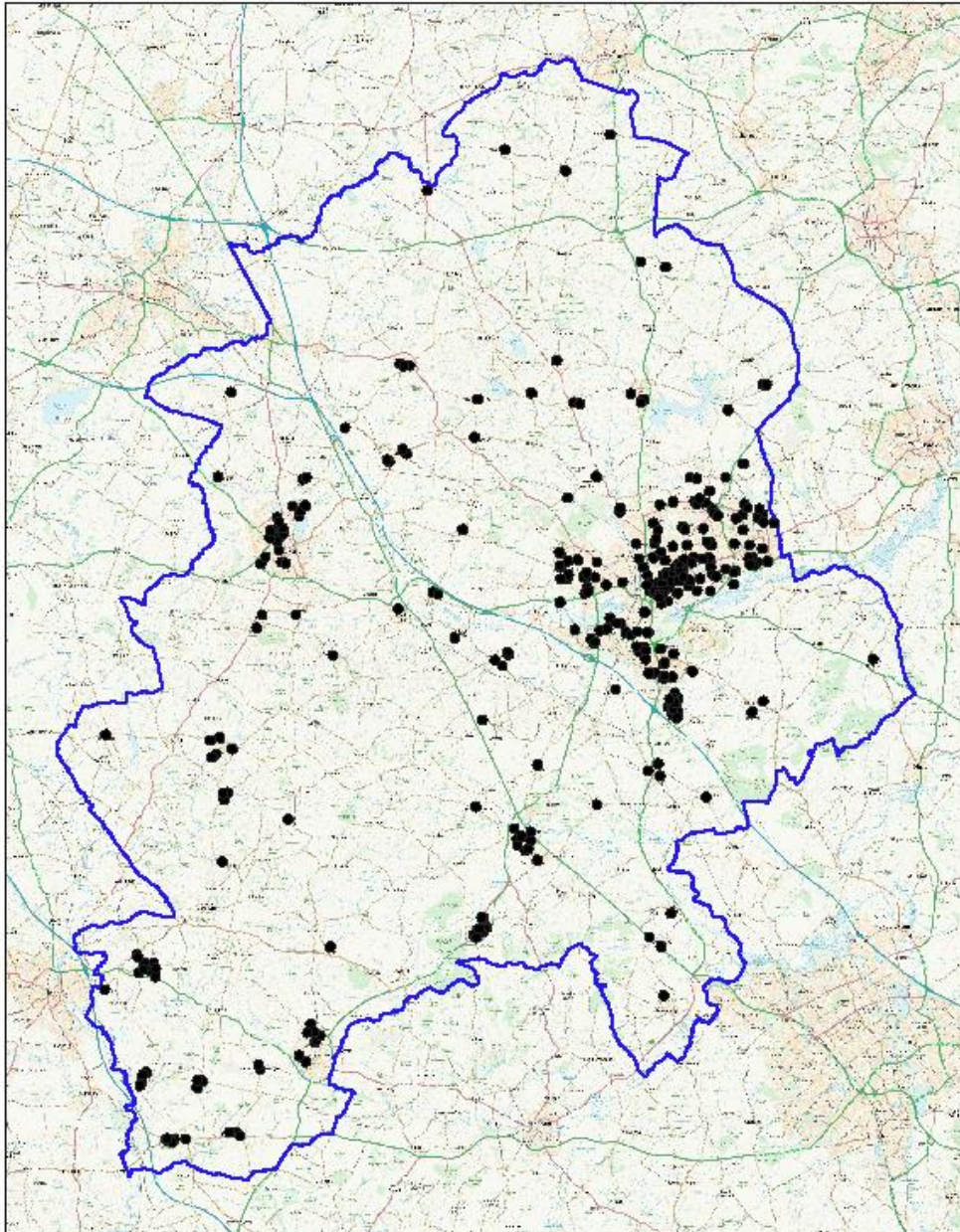
Please feel free to leave any questions which you do not wish to answer.


Any information you chose to provide will be treated confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation and regulations.

### **23.What is your postcode?**

By providing us with your postcode, you are consenting for us to use this information to understand where respondents live. If you do not consent to us using this information in this way, please do not provide your postcode.

There were 459 responses to this question. 92 of this were incorrect or only partial postcodes.



	<b>Title: WNC Budget Consultation 2023/24 responses</b>	<b>Date: 01-02-2023</b>
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**24.Are you:**

There were 562 responses to this question.

Are you	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Male	243	43.2%
Female	254	45.2%
Prefer not to say	65	11.6%
Other	0	0%

Other-not selected however responses provided:

- this should not matter apart from political correctness
- [...]
- You don't need to know or ask this question
- Transgender Female

**25.Are you currently pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 6 months?**

There were 545 responses to this question.

Pregnant or pregnant in last 6 months	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Yes	243	2.8%
No	254	45.2%
Prefer not to say	65	13.7%

**26.How old are you?**

There were 561 responses to this question.

Age range	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
20 to 29	18	3.2%
30 to 49	206	36.7%
50 to 64	149	26.6%
65 to 74	74	13.2%
75 and over	30	5.3%
Prefer not to say	84	15.0%

**27.Do you have a disability?**

There were 561 responses to this question which allowed for more than one answer.

Disability	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Yes	64	11.4%
No	403	71.8%
Prefer not to say	94	16.8%

**28.If 'Yes' please select the appropriate box(es) which best describes your disability:**

There were 98 responses to this question which allowed for more than one answer.

Disability	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Mental health	20	20.4%
Physical disability	36	36.7%
Hearing impairment	12	12.2%
Learning disability	3	3.1%
Sight impairment	4	4.1%
Other	23	23.5%

## 29. What is your religion or belief?

There were 555 responses to this question.

Religion or belief	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
None	182	32.8%
Christian	232	41.8%
Hindu	3	0.5%
Jewish	2	0.4%
Muslim	4	0.7%
Sikh	1	0.2%
Buddhist	3	0.5%
Prefer not to say	123	22.2%
Other	5	0.9%

### Other:

- Not declared
- Not relevant
- Atheist (this is a belief system as well even if based on rationality)
- None
- Apathist

## 31. What is your ethnic origin?

There were 497 responses to this question.

Ethnic origin	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
White British	389	78.2%
White Irish	5	1.0%
Indian	4	0.8%
Pakistani	2	0.4%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
Other White background	16	3.2%
Bangladeshi	0	0.0%
Chinese	1	0.2%
Other Asian background	0	0.0%
White and black Caribbean	2	0.4%
White and black African	2	0.4%
Caribbean	0	0.0%
African	0	0.0%
White and Asian	3	0.6%
Other mixed / multiple background	2	0.4%
Other Black background	4	0.8%
Arab	1	0.2%
Other ethnic group	4	0.8%
Prefer not to say	62	12.5%

### Other:

- White English
- Geordie

**32. If you are 16 or over which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

There were 539 responses to this question.

How do you think of yourself	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Bisexual	10	1.9%
Gay woman / Lesbian	3	0.6%
Gay man	12	2.2%
Heterosexual	373	69.2%
Prefer not to say	141	26.2%

**33. Is your sex (called your gender identity) the same as the gender you were given when you were born?**

There were 538 responses to this question.

Sex / gender	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Yes	412	76.6%
No	5	0.9%
Prefer not to say	121	22.5%

**34. Are you:**

There were 553 responses to this question.

	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
Married	289	52.3%
Single	70	12.7%
Civil partnership	0	0.0%
Co-habiting / living together	68	12.3%
Widow / Widower	6	1.2%
Other	9	1.6%
Prefer not to say	111	20.1%

**35. How did you find out about this consultation?**

There were 607 responses to this question. Respondents could select more than one answer.

	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
From the local media (i.e., newspaper or radio)	100	16.5%
On social media	271	44.6%
As a member of the West Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	14	2.3%



	Number of responses	Per cent (%)
As a member of the West Northamptonshire Consultation Register	21	3.5%
From an email alert from my local council	114	18.8%
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support and advice	10	1.6%
Other	77	12.7%

**Other:**

- Work for the Council
- WNC employee
- Council worker
- friend
- employee
- From friend
- Employee
- employee of West Northants
- Staff email
- work email
- Within my workplace
- West Northants app
- From the West Northamptonshire "Latest News" email
- Come on phone from West Northants
- Friend
- Council Newsletter
- as an employee
- Work email
- Im an employee of WNC
- On the WNC website - it took quite a bit of finding!
- email
- member of the Unitary Council
- As a WNC Councillor, direct from WNC.
- because i am a councillor
- [name] FB page
- by chance where does this stuff get publicised?
- Employee
- Via my position as the Clerk to a Parish Council in the WNC district
- Email received at work
- Parish Council
- employee - internal
- From my local councillor.
- Local resident
- Employee WNC internal comms
- from the parish council
- Staff briefing

- local business organisation
- News section on your app
- My [relative]
- Parish council
- Report from [name]
- Council employee forwarded the link, said it was pretty buried to try and find otherwise.
- Newsletter
- Neighbour
- As an employee of WNC
- Parish council
- Advised by employee of council. Think it's a disgrace that this so called consultation is being kept quiet
- Your website
- Word of mouth
- A concerned friend
- Local friend
- From a neighbour
- Family member
- Parish council [position]
- Politician
- from a local resident
- Our village facebook page from our Parish Council
- Word of mouth
- Parish Council
- From a friend
- [Name of organisation]
- [Name of organisation]
- Friend
- On my phone
- [Name of organisation]
- As a West Northants Councillor
- Word of mouth
- Teams message at work
- local scientific organisation
- The man from the council said we could do it
- Via Cabinet Report and other info to councillors
- West Northamptonshire Council website
- Save our bus leaflet 59/60 bus
- Parish Council

### **The next steps**

Once the consultation period closes on 31 January 2023, we will analyse the results and then final budget proposals will be developed before going back to the West Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 22 February 2023.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help councillors make a final decision on the budget for 2023/24.

The Full Council meeting is held in public. Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by email (democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk), by post or in person (One Angel Square, Angel St, Northampton NN1 1ED) by 6pm 21 February 2023.

Up to three members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.

## Appendix 2: Other responses

### Feedback received via emails

There were 27 written responses received.

1	People are already struggling to pay Energy bill. With lot of people choosing between heat and Food. That 4.5% increase is not much, works around £6 a month. But that could mean 1 meal.
2	object to that proposal vehemently. Town centre businesses, retail and charitable organisations already struggle in the face of edge of, out of town retail and this will be another nail in the coffin. I would rather see free parking continue and reducing the spend on the market square to compensate. As a user of one of our vibrant town centre churches, introducing weekend parking charges will also be punitive for Faith communities trying to bring life into our Town centre. Introducing car park charges will have a negative effect on people thinking about going to a church - when parking to go shopping at any of the retail parks is free!!
3	you are increasing garden waste collection why . There be my fly tipping local tips be so busy how are we going to afford extra money . Makes me want to cancel direct debit you get money for council tax when I have it. What will extra money go on your wage increase this town not fit to visit any more no shops town dirty . All you are interested in is betting shops pubs and student accommodations. Use to have best market in midlands now it is a shabby tip. No need it increase parking fees nobody comes to town . Rather go to rushden lakes or Milton Keynes.
4	I am extremely annoyed at the proposed hike in charging more for garden rubbish bins. As a pensioner, and having to pay for two bins thanks to the 5 large trees which belong to the school behind my garden which creates so many leaves and

	<p>branches which all fall into my garden. We are not allowed to put them back over the fence as it will be classed as fly tipping. I already pay enough in council tax which is also going up. I don't know where you think people are going to get the money to pay for all of these rises. All you will do is create problems in which people will start dumping all sorts of rubbish in the countryside which will cost more money to remove. As for thinking of having rubbish removed every three weeks instead of two I don't know what idiot thought of that idea but they need their head examined. You want people to recycle more and want to make it longer before the blue bins are emptied, if you decide to go ahead with this idea people will need a further Blue bin as one won't be enough. You have made it more and more difficult for people depositing of rubbish safely already by reducing the times and days the tips are open, all you are succeeding in doing is creating more and more problems. Fly tipping will go through the ceiling.</p> <p>As for getting rid of free parking in the Town centre in my opinion that won't make too much difference, as thanks to all the shops which have closed over the years the Town centre has become a dump that people don't want to visit any way. We are becoming a third world country thanks to the decision of people in government.</p>
5	<p>would hope you would help Creaton village out with a improved village hall for the onslaught of 400 people to a village which has nothing , A bus service for these people so they can move around and get some things to take away the way these men's mental health is going to go ,Give Saxon spires more money for the onslaughts of doubling a village , more police around showing presence that this is what is expected, The villagers who pay a high council tax and discount as they now have there property they they saved for worked for paid high prices for , which will see a downside on there house prices, more rubbish collection as I'm sure that's will increase Safety for our young girls and boys as there will be conflict ,An English teacher who will set up for lessons also to teach the villagers mainly over 50s lessons on there language this village won't cope with the influx of [number and description] , I actually don't think any village could this is too many in one place smaller numbers should have been given them maybe the village would welcome them not fear them</p>
6	<p>Propose that rubbish bags of various sizes are bought from the village shop with the name of the village printed on it, this would bring more revenue into the council. Instead of having several bins at each house, place large metal bin containers in various places around the towns and villages where the bin bags are put into, making it much easier for collection. Cardboard and paper can be put into bundles and collect from the house every 3 months, saving another bin.</p> <p>Install bottle, tins, cooking oil, coffee capsule containers at the shop, quite clearly marked which container is for what waste product, making it easier for collection. This will save the council time and money.</p>
7	<p>I strongly disagree with the proposed 30.9% increase in the charge for Garden Waste bin collection. Increasing the charge from £42 to £55 is outrageous and puts an unfair charge on village households who are more likely to have garden waste than town properties. If the charge is increased to such an extent, I feel sure there will be an increase in fly tipping as a result.</p>
8	<p>Wouldn't mind paying extra on the council tax if we actually got value for money. The roads are shocking Bins are regularly missed Litter all over the town and estate's. Hedges and grass are an absolute mess and when they are cut they aren't cleaned up Plus the cost of living going up and most peoples wages do not. So good luck getting any extra out of me</p>

9	<p>I would like to say that I feel this is an excellent budget and even more so because it is at an unprecedented time of occurrences that no one could have known would cross our path. I do feel that the shortage of staff across the board is one of the most urgent yet difficult occurrences that you have to manage. If all vacancies were filled then I think our country would start working again. I am very grateful for what the council does for me.</p> <p>Good luck with getting your budget accepted.</p>
10	<p>Please do not change bin collections to 3 weekly. This will be extremely difficult with recycling as our bin is full after 3 weeks.</p>
11	<p>I note your proposal to increase garage rents by 10%. I object to this and propose that you increase garage occupancy by reducing the rent by 10% and allow the vacant garages to be used for storage. You should also advertise the availability of the garages and stop being petty and silly with rules about letting them.</p>
12	<p>The one thing I am totally against is the 3 weekly bin collection coupled with the extortionate rise in the cost of garden waste collection. Last year you added a hidden additional charge of £10 to the £32 cost of collection but failed to make this public. This year you propose an increase to £55. This charge penalises people for being environmentally friendly.</p> <p>You, for some unknown reason are keeping the revised 3 weekly schedule hidden from general view. The only way to find out is to be actually living the Daventry area as a post code and street name are required to view it. Stop being so secretive. If you can't be totally open about this, what else have you hidden away from us? More concealed additional charges verbally agreed at various meetings? as for the Mayorhold car park, is that not shortsighted? There are plans to build so many flats and apartments in the town centre and despite the theoretical notion that occupants will use the near non existent public transport, most will own a car. It would be better put to use as a private car park for town dwellers and charge rental for each space. Alternatively contract it out to one of the national car park companies for contract parking.</p>
13	<p>Parkrun is a volunteer run weekly timed 5k run open to all. [Name of organisation] are proud of the fact that the average international finish time is continuing to increase as they see their raison d'être to encourage exercise for all.</p> <p>Since its inaugural event in November 2019 [Name] Country parkrun has had 3510 different people run it with finish times ranging from 16:52 to over an hour. 272 different people have volunteered at the event and it is seen by many as a great way to get out and meet people, in fact this is also one of the main aims of parkrun for volunteers to socialise on a Saturday morning. [Name] Country parkrun has many regular volunteers who are not there because they are run enthusiasts just that they enjoy being a part of something and encouraging all as they make their way around our course.</p> <p>Volunteers arrive at the park from 8am and open the car park. They are often there until 11am processing results in the cafe. They currently get free parking until 11am. This will need considering when changing the parking arrangements.</p> <p>Pre Pandemic our participant numbers were averaging 211 peaking in January of 2020 at 311, post pandemic we have averaged 99. The difference; the parking charge.</p> <p>Free parking until 11am on a Saturday morning would be a great way for the council to encourage a healthy start to the weekend and in light of what we all went</p>

	through during the pandemic a great message to the people of Northamptonshire that a healthy lifestyle was important.
14	This is disgusting we pay our council tax for bin collection it is bad enough 2 weekly collections. There are flies maggots and bad smells from May to September. It's not so bad in the colder months but I would not agree to black bins being collected 3 weeks it's a health hazard, we had rats this summer and I have a low immunity so don't want to catch diseases and bacteria related illnesses. We pay our poll tax so give us fortnightly collections or stop the green bins and do then once every 2 months not out black bins!!!!
15	I have read the proposal about reducing the waste collection to every 3 weeks !! That is not a great idea as we are all families and every 2 weeks is bad enough . We should be allowed to have bigger bins .During the summer time this will also attract insects etc .... Council tax goes up ... services go down .
16	In response to the proposals in the budget submission, whilst I am sure that the financial figures will be correct, there is one proposal to the refuse collection proposals which I wish to comment on The proposal to reduce the black bin collection to once every three weeks is essentially unworkable. I have no idea what has happened in Daventry, but combined with the decision to impose green bin collections last year, it seems that a decision has been made to make lowest cost the overall policy in this area. I have all three bins and collecting the green bin every 2 weeks whilst only collecting the black bin every three weeks is illogical. I know which bin fills quickest. Also as this will result in peoples bins being full more often, those residents who have no room to store refuse will be more inclined to fly tip thus incurring more cost to the council
17	Please use some of the budget to keep the 59/60 bus route running as it is a lifeline for lots of people.
18	Increasing parking charges and introducing Sunday charges will finally euthanise the terminally I'll town centre. Don't do it.
19	[Retail Business]  We would like to add our voice to the many others who are against raising car parking fees in Northampton. The town has lost a lot of retailers and therefore, those of us still trading, have seen a significant fall in footfall. Those people who do try to support their local businesses are being penalised for their loyalty. We have many a conversation with our customers about the cost of parking and the fact that none of the relatively new machines on the street do not accept cards. These are some of the reasons people are travelling to Rushden Lakes, Milton Keynes & Market Harborough, all of which offer free parking or much reduced rates to Northampton. Raising the parking costs will drive more people away and thus put less money into the meters, making the proposal completely counter-productive.
20	I have just heard that you may be looking at going to 3 weekly collections of black wheelie bins! As a litter picker/ flytipping reporter I must stress that this will only make more rubbish/flytipping for us poor volunteers to deal with and is a terribly BAD idea! It will not be greeted happily by wheelie bin users in any way shape or form please reconsider!

21	Can you make a set time for an employee of the council too reply to a member of the public
22	<p>Member of Parliament</p> <p>Proposed Car Parking Fee Increases</p> <p>I will be grateful if you would submit this letter to the consultation on car parking fee increases.</p> <p>As you will be aware, following a decision taken at cabinet on Tuesday 17th January, the cost of parking a car in Northampton is set to increase in some cases by hundreds of percent, including at [name] Country Park and the [location] My view, and that of the many constituents who have contacted me on this matter, is that this would be an unjustifiable and short-sighted move, for the following reasons.</p> <p>Most obviously perhaps, as many residents' correspondence has attested to, the town centre is not the place it once was, particularly since the pandemic, with decreasing shopping opportunities among other challenges. Post-pandemic is just the time we need to be mitigating for this, not disincentivising people from spending their money and thereby contributing to this rejuvenation, which I know is a view shared by the [name, job title]. This dovetails into what I think is the more procedural flaw of this decision in that the initial consultation seems not to have been an open one, with side negotiations having taken place between the Council and [name], thereby undermining the process.</p> <p>Another key point relating particularly to the parking charge increases at the [location] and [Place] Country Park, is that in increasing the parking charges by this amount, people may well be disincentivised from taking the exercise they need just at the time when health and social care services at under strain in the town and right across the country. In the long run, I fear that any income generated by these increases will be negated by the potentially resultant strain on critical services, which would be very much a false economy.</p> <p>The council is arguing that these increases are necessary to protect core services. I put it to you that car parking provision and parking costs are themselves a core service to local town centre businesses and are crucial for footfall numbers and thus the eco-system that keeps our local businesses viable within the town centre economy. I very much hope you will take these views into consideration at the consultation stage and beyond.</p> <p>[Member of Parliament]</p>
23	<p>[Parish Council]</p> <p>Under WNC budget proposals for 2023/4, [Place name] and other South Northants residents will, for the third year running, see a Council Tax increase above that for Northampton residents - £86.02 (5.35%) as opposed to £69.31 (4.27%) while at the same time have a further reduction in services. West Northants Council (WNC) averages out this increase as 2.99% for the whole area and so avoids having to hold a referendum on the excessive increase being levied, again on [Place name] and South Northants residents.</p> <p>As a Parish Council we would be very interested to know what percentage of the WNC budget is spent on South Northants residents compared to the income raised from them as we have seen our Council Taxes rise but our service levels decrease since WNC came into existence. Being transferred into an authority that now includes Northampton, WNC focus and resource allocation seems to be</p>

	<p>disproportionately allocated there. The budget proposals include a number of increases in service charges where WNC say that residents have 'discretion' over whether or not they use the service. This includes a proposed massive 30% hike in the charge for green waste collection which is wholly unacceptable. This 'stealth tax' was introduced in South Northants last year under the guise of harmonisation with other parts of WN when it is really another case of WNC levelling down the services that [Place name] residents had previously received under South Northants Council. The proposals will move the charge from £42 to £55 (30.95% hike). This green waste charge still has not got a system for discounts or payment plans for vulnerable residents so the whole amount has to be found up front. This green waste charge is categorised by West Northants Council as discretionary – something that residents have a choice about – not much of a choice if you've no car, no local collection points. We call on WNC to drop this proposed hike and to introduce payment schedules and discounts systems as a matter of urgency. There is a proposal to reduce waste collections to a three-weekly cycle citing the need to harmonise services with Daventry. This seems another example of services being levelled down and the implications of waste being left for three weeks especially in areas using bin bags just has not been thought through. The plans to increase the charges for collection of bulk items is another proposal that we would like to see withdrawn. The issue of fly tipping is massive and any increases in charges for collection of bulky items may well lead to further instances of fly tipping which of course costs WNC in the long run. WNC proposed to increase parking charges at Country Parks, but we understand this has already been subject to a rethink by WNC. We share the concerns already raised about the disbenefits of such increases in charges – pricing many people out of being able to access them and the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, anti-social parking etc.</p> <p>While we want to see funding made available to improve housing stock, we have concerns about rent increases of 7% (£6.79 a week) and the increase of 10% to service charges and garage charges at a time when many people are struggling so much to make ends meet.</p> <p>We also urge the Council to review its proposed capital spend to ensure that planned projects are fully funded, benefit the more vulnerable residents in the area and that South Northants is not further marginalised in the geographical spread of these plans. Council services in our area remain desperately poor with no youth or family support services and a woeful bus service that means residents cannot use public transport to even get to local towns to access services.</p> <p>West Northants Council has large reserves and contingencies (more than required/advised by Cipfa) and instead of raising fees and charges, some of these funds, as well as the Revenue Budget should be used to provide support to residents in [Place name].</p>
24	<p>[Name of organisation]</p> <p>[Name of organisation] is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the budget report and proposals for West Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>It is helpful to be aware of the pressures for the Council and the proposed approach to the budget while retaining the focus on objectives of the Council.</p> <p>[Name of organisation] is a local charity supporting vulnerable and isolated families across the two previous local authority areas. Through this work we contribute to the Council's objectives. We too have objectives to achieve sustainability through funding and to meet a growing demand for help. The more families we can support</p>



the more we can potentially help to prevent escalation of needs and reduce the impact of isolation and vulnerability on children and families. We know that the timing of support is important especially for children, gaps in help can have a long-term effect.

We're here for parents when they need us most, this key phrase is in a report entitled 'because childhood can't wait'. This [Name of organisation] UK national report demonstrates the impact of [Name of organisation] support for example on parental mental health, child development, and feelings of isolation. When isolated and vulnerable families are struggling to cope with ongoing pressures, this can have a significant impact on childhood health and wellbeing including educational attainment. [Name of organisation] volunteers support families with at least one child aged 5 or under who are experiencing stressful situations and through support and encouragement families can access other support and activities improving their wellbeing and connecting with their communities. If we can operate together with the local authority, the Children's Trust and other voluntary sector organisations we can have a more effective approach.

Voluntary Organisations and Communities - We support the proposal to make community fund contributions to the voluntary sector and to aim for external funding to support the community fund. This could enable charities such as ours to continue to contribute to the Council's longer-term objectives. There is also commitment in the Budget report to transformation and alongside investment in voluntary sector we would propose that these, together, could facilitate community-based work and help address the Council's cost pressures and to reduce the increasing demand for services.

We would support the proposals for preventative commissioning within the Children's Trust and Education and support the commitment to the Public Health agenda as the health and wellbeing of all the community can also benefit those who are vulnerable and isolated. [Name of organisation] has worked collaboratively on public health projects in Northamptonshire and aims to contribute to the improvement of community health and wellbeing. We are also involved directly in the Integrated Care Partnership.

Investment and Looking Forward - We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in how all these areas of work could be taken forward including ways of working that can lead to savings or reductions in cost in future years. There can be financial benefits to making use of [Name of organisation].

As also stated in the Budget report there is a commitment to 'Making a Difference' to children, young people and families which will be through both the Council services and the work of the NCT. The revenue investment in NCT is welcome support for vulnerable children and young people.

We would ask the Council to consider enabling investment in the voluntary sector organisations that are providing early support to prevent escalation of problems for families and to sustain positive changes. [Name of organisation] can impact on the Council's objectives for families and children including education objectives and help the NCT with their objectives and support for their improvement journey. We have social work students on placement within our organisation and this is mutually beneficial for our families and the learning and development for our organisation. The Voluntary sector can be integral to the service support for children and families. It costs the charity approximately £1200-£1500 to support a family for six months and we would argue that this can prevent escalation of need and prevent poor outcomes for children and families leading to higher costs.

[Name of organisation] does not receive statutory funding for core services, grant funding is becoming increasingly scarce and investment in rural community

	infrastructure is limited and without community resources, the benefits of community and voluntary organisations will be limited.
25	<p>[Name of Organisation] South Northants</p> <p>The Conservative government's restructuring of our local government structure into a West Northants unitary authority came about to deal with the financial mismanagement of the Conservative controlled Northants County Council. This hugely expensive and disruptive reorganisation that we were told would save money and improve services has, instead resulted in residents of South Northants experiencing increases in Council Tax (and PFCC precept), fees and charges while receiving ever reducing levels of service.</p> <p>This year, for the third year running, South Northants (SN) residents will be seeing a Council Tax increase above that for Northampton residents - £86.02 (5.35%) as opposed to £69.31 (4.27%). West Northants Council averages out this increase as 2.99% for the whole area and so avoids having to hold a referendum on the excessive increase being levied on SN residents.</p> <p>Will WNC declare the share of its budget being spent on South Northants residents compared to the income it raises from them? Being transferred into an authority that now includes Northampton, West Northants Council's focus and resource allocation seems to be disproportionately allocated there. WNC should not see South Northants as a 'cash-cow' for Northampton.</p> <p>WNC's proposals include a huge number of increases in service charges and fees. These are stealth taxes, raising charges for services through the back-door. This includes a proposed massive 30% hike in the charge for green waste collection which is wholly unacceptable. This 'stealth tax' was introduced in South Northants last year under the guise of harmonisation with other parts of WN when it is really a case of WNC levelling down the services that SN residents had previously received under South Northants Council. This will move the charge from £42 to £55 (30.95% hike). Moreover, this green waste charge still has not got any system for discounts or payment plans for vulnerable residents so the whole amount has to be found up front. This green waste charge is categorised by WNC as discretionary – something that residents have a choice about – not much of a choice if you've no car, no local collection points.</p> <p>The levelling down of council services continues with the proposal to reduce waste collections to a three-weekly cycle citing the need to 'harmonise' services with Daventry. While we all want to encourage recycling and the reduction of waste, the implications of waste being left for three weeks especially in areas using bin bags just has not been thought through and is being introduced as a cash raising ploy. The plans to increase the charges for collection of bulk items is another proposal that we would like to see withdrawn. The issue of fly tipping is massive and any increases in charges for collection of bulky items may well lead to further instances of fly tipping which of course costs WNC in the long run. Similarly, changing the service currently in place for landlords to empty premises will have negative unintended consequences that will likely cost more in the long run.</p> <p>The increases to parking charges at Country Parks is another area where WNC is considering increasing fees and charges for ordinary residents. We are pleased that this has been rowed back on for the Racecourse site but what about the other areas of WNC – why are country parks outside of Northampton being given the same consideration? Visiting our county's parks must remain affordable for ordinary residents. Until there is an accessible, integrated public transport system that</p>

	<p>brings people from villages around WNC to country parks then affordable car parking is needed. We share the concerns already raised about the disbenefits of such increases in charges – pricing many people out of being able to access them and the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, anti-social parking etc</p> <p>The WN Conservative Council that is introducing these hikes in tax and fees and charges for residents in South Northants are perhaps under the impression that rural poverty does not exist and that we are impervious to the national rises in inflation, rising energy costs and the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Council services in South Northants are desperately poor with even larger villages having no youth or family support services. With woeful bus services that often do not even link South Northants towns and villages with Northampton and villages with the towns of Brackley and Towcester, how can our residents access the services they are paying for through their Council Taxes. Our residents have to rely on cars to get to work, school and college and for many even access to food via a Foodbank is not possible without a car.</p> <p>West Northants Council has massive reserves and contingencies and some of this, as well as the revenue budget, should be used to provide support to residents in rural South Northants. We call on WNC to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Bus improvements to ensure that larger villages, Brackley and Towcester residents can access education, training, employment, Foodbanks and council services</li> <li>· Anti-Poverty measures that target rural areas to ensure that the most vulnerable and isolated are supported and that the focus is not just on the large urban areas of population</li> <li>· Increased social housing stock should include South Northants as well as Northampton</li> <li>· Family Hubs are developed in rural areas so that all residents and not just those in towns can receive the support they need.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, we call upon West Northants Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Prioritise and fund the commitment to net zero. This should include appropriate resourcing to push forward credible policy objectives on climate change to achieve the carbon goals of West Northants as well as small scale projects.</li> <li>· Become an accredited Real Living Wage employer to ensure that contracts and outsourcing of services are awarded to Real Living Wage Employers.</li> <li>· Acknowledge the crisis in social care across the county and ensure that adequate funding is provided to this service area so that a high-quality standard of care can be delivered to all that need it. This will include ensuring that funding is sufficient for the delivery of individual care plans with care package budgets rising to take account of increasing service costs, including staffing costs</li> </ul>
26	<p>[Name of media organisation]</p> <p>In the document attached - [names of campaign stories and links; selection of comments; name of people], you will find the 14 campaign stories we have run, and a variety of the comments people have shared with us under our social media posts, via email, or along with their signature on the petition to stop these plans going ahead. These only scratch the surface among the hundreds we have received. The petition has exceeded more than 1,000 signatures, from individuals condemning your parking proposals. We would like to see the council take all of this into consideration when making the final decision - and do the right thing for all town centre venues, particularly businesses.</p>

27

Town Council:

[Name] Town Council has reviewed the draft West Northamptonshire budget for 2023/24 and concluded that a rise in the budget is unavoidable due to pressures from adult social care, Children's Trust, Home to school transport, pay related costs and contractual inflation. However, [Name] Town Council members are concerned that the implementation of the proposal to increase the council tax by 6.12% in the former Daventry District area will have significant negative impact on residents in the Town and the former Daventry District.

In relation to West Northamptonshire's waste contract, it is noted that costs for this service are increasing due to contractual pressures, but members of [Name] town Council question why these costs aren't mitigated by the proposed reduction in service for Northampton and South Northants as it moves to a three weekly collection and the proposed 39.95% increase in charges for kerbside garden waste.

[Name] Town Council has also considered the proposed parking charges for [location] Country Park and agrees that an increase in charges will deter people from using this countywide facility. With health and wellbeing high on local and national governments' agenda it is extremely important to ensure that public parks are easily accessible with no restrictions to encourage the community, especially children and young people to be more active.

Although there are no plans, within WNC's proposed budget for 23/24 to introduce parking charges in [name]Town car parks, the Town Council wishes to use this opportunity to voice its concerns and objections to any proposal of this kind. Should this option ever be considered it will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the Town as the business community is already struggling due to covid, cost of living crisis, lower footfall and the introduction of parking charges could prevent future commercial development in [name] Town centre.

[Name] Town Council notes the proposal to increase members' allowances in line with inflation which is categorised as an unavoidable pressure, whilst it would be considered reasonable to increase members' allowances to recognise the council duties they undertake, residents within the West Northamptonshire Areas consider this to be unacceptable and consideration should be given to increase allowances in line with the 4.5% cost of living pay award being proposed for council employees and not in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate standing at 11.1% at the time West Northamptonshire drafted the report.

[Name] Town Council has noted the budget proposals mention Daventry Town Vision generating an income of £100k in 25/26, should staff resource be available to bring those projects forward. The Town Council acknowledges the need for change and development and expects to work closely with West Northamptonshire Council and other stakeholders to ensure that Daventry's future growth and economic development is maintained for the benefit of its residents and future generations.

We look forward to working with you in relation to improving engagement with our community and working in partnership with WNC on projects and decision-making for Name Town.

Supplementary email response: to submitted response: [name] [personal information] [response and clarification of comments submitted on members allowance] [name]
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## Feedback received via social media

There were number of comments made directly to our social media channels regarding the consultation. Names have been redacted from social media comments.

### Social media post of 21 December 2022

[name]

No point in giving us a say.. you're going to do it regardless of what any of us say...

[name]

[name] thats the illusion of democracy

[name]

Freeze council tax.

[name]

How about you cap pay of any council workers including the CEO to around £30/40k per year. Make the pensions DC and end full pay when sick. That will help save money.

[name]

Asking for opinions then ignoring the responses, they will put the charges up as much as they can, don't waste money in this consultation when you take no notice [emoji]

### Social media post of 2 January 2023

[name]

Great to see that you've budgeted for roadworks both routes into Brafield, at the same time, so they can't be avoided! What geniuses.

### Social media post of 5 January 2023

[name]

Don't move bin collections to every 3 weeks.

[name]

We better not get hit with another stupidly high increase because questions will need answering about your fiscal responsibility and failure to manage budgets! Are you seeking to push residents into Council Tax poverty. How much Tax payer will have to be spent in legal recovery for residents that can't afford a 5% increase, which won't include the precepts from Town Councils, Police, Fire, etc and with a CEO being paid £170k a year!!

[name]

we are invited but you wont listen though will you, you will still put up council tax by 5% and will will increase green bin charges, the consultation is just a formality because you have to do it, and you will simply ignore the feedback

[name]  
Pay more get less

[name]  
I don't think we will bother, and I think you know the reason why!

[name]  
[name]Why??? please explain...

[name]  
[name] because we all know the true value of their consultations <0

[name]  
No point. You will go ahead regardless to what the public think.

### **Social media post of 11 January 2023**

[name]  
done, doubt you will listen though, I am sure this is a formality you have to do and will just increase to what you can get away with anyway

[name]  
[name] interesting they're still using covid, adult social and child services as a crutch. The Council needs to streamline its processes and reduce its headcount. Costs are going out of control because the Council is fiscally irresponsible, it's being run by a woman who was involved at senior level with the team that run NCC into the ground!

[name]  
Why would we give you our views, you don't listen, you'll charge the full increase anyway.  
[emoji]

### **Social media post of 18 January 2023**

[name]  
what's the point, although you should be forced to declare where and how the previous years was spent!

[name]  
Completed but not sure why I bothered. Never makes any difference and you'll increase it anyway although services don't get any better.

[name]  
raising rents and causing even more misery ...

[name]  
Our comments wont change how much we pay, you will guarantee put it up as much as you can without triggering a referendum, because you know you will lose it if you put it above 4.99%

[name]  
Already have but it seems decisions on Racecourse parking has already been made??

[name]

Pointless exercise - regardless of what people say nothing will change in Northampton.  
#Time4Change

[name]

[name] I completely agree

[name]

This [emojis]

### **Social media post of 25 January 2023**

[name]

I challenge you to not set it to 4.99%

If you are honest and you think you need more, then put the true value there and your reasons and let the public decide with a referendum, otherwise you are just grabbing as much as you can without us having a say (the consultation will be ignored anyway)

### **Social media post of 30 January 2023**

[name]

A comment about how much money was spent on building Angel Square, only to sell it and rent it out and then move out would be interesting.

[name]

I actually read that as "daft" budget proposals!

[name]

Why bother? You never actually listen to what people say anyway.

[name]

not entirely true, they actually listened to the country park car park charge increase consultation so gotta give them some credit for that, lets hope they listen to this one too and scrap the increase to actually help out the people

[name]

[name], I did forget about the parking charge increase.

Fingers crossed they don't increase anymore [emoji] I can't actually see anyone wanting their taxes increased anymore for less services.